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Volume I.

Number 1.

LAFAYETTE POST No 140



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



COMPILED BY
WILBUR F. BROWN
PAST COMMANDER AND ADJUTANT

NEW YORK
PUBLISHED BY THE COMPILER
1900



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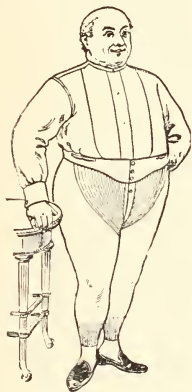
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From the National Tribune, Washington, D. C., Thursday, April 22, 1897:

We adopt a somewhat unusual course in calling attention to the announcement of Messrs. Butts & Phillips, which reappears in another column of this issue. Not only have they been successful as practitioners, but their personal war record gives an additional interest to their career. The fact that they are both veterans naturally had a bearing upon the success they have achieved professionally in the special line of practice to which they have devoted their efforts. Both members of the firm have had the advantage of long service in responsible positions in the Pension Bureau.

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


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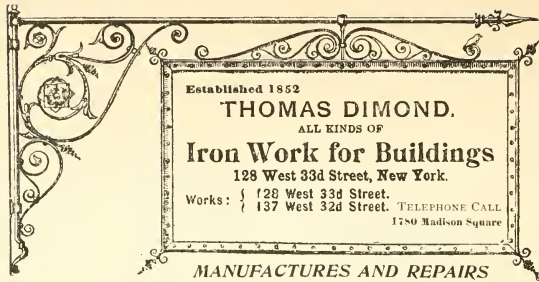
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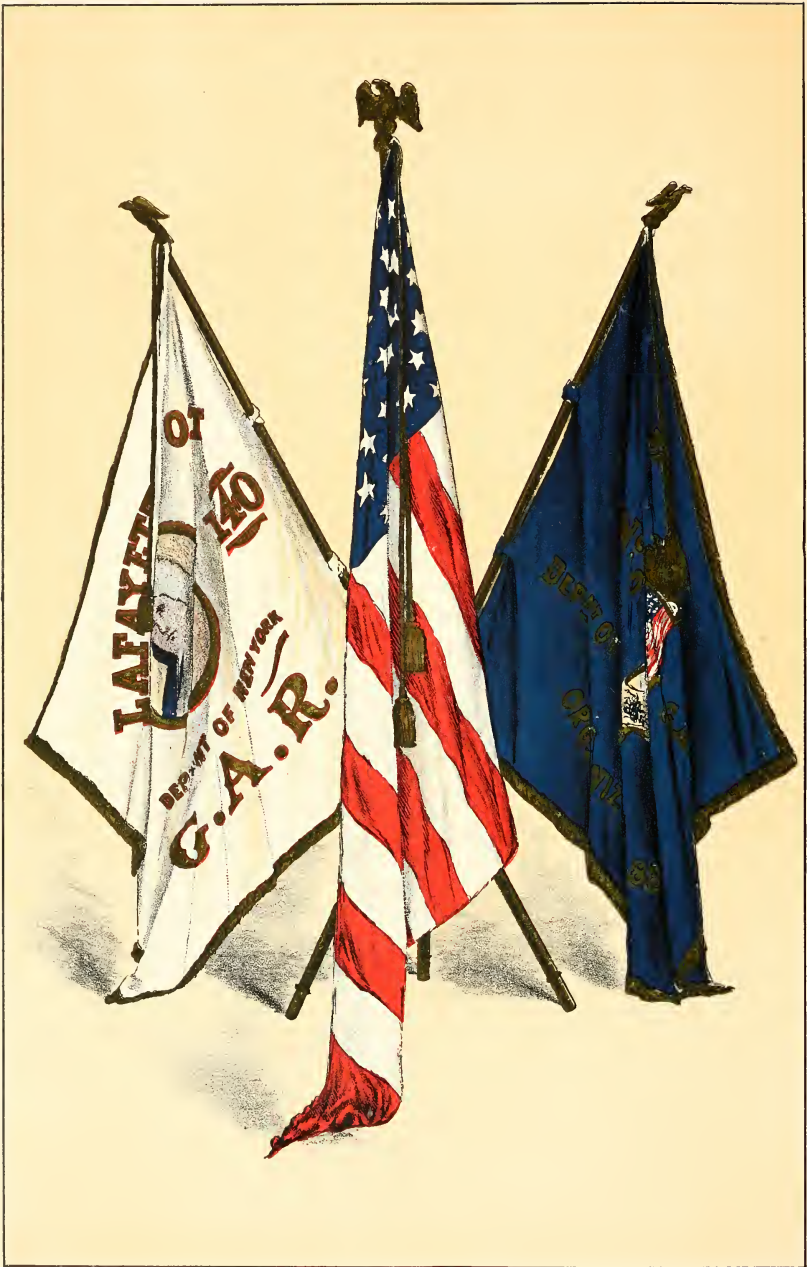
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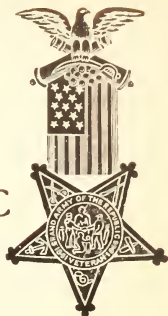
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC





"TO THE COLORS."

LAFAYETTE POST, No. 140
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



COMPILED BY

WILBUR F. BROWN

PAST COMMANDER AND ADJUTANT

VOLUME ONE

NEW YORK

PUBLISHED BY THE COMPILER

1900

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TO MY BRAVE AND NOBLE COMRADES OF THE POST, THE
FRATERNAL, CHARITABLE, AND LOYAL COMPANIONS
OF MY MANHOOD, WHO HAVE PRECEDED ME TO THE CAMP
OF PEACE, I MOST TENDERLY DEDICATE THESE VOLUMES
AND INSCRIBE WITH THE RECORDS OF ALL, MY SIMPLE
TESTIMONY OF THEIR HEROIC DEEDS AND FAITHFUL SERVICE.



Introduction

To write the history of Lafayette Post is to write the history of the Grand Army of the Republic in all that pertains to Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty as the sentiments of its existence.

Every act of the noble Order, since the date of the Post charter, has met with the fullest sympathy, and every purpose of the parent has been accepted as a precept to the child.

In attempting to write the biography of the Post, the author recognizes his incapability and acknowledges it; but, as from the beginning until now so much has been said and done which must bring forth that which will be of the same benefit to those of the future as it has been to those of the past and present, there is an excuse, surely, for the desire to preserve the records, imperfectly as they may be arranged, for an easy reference for those who will cherish the memory of their patriotic ancestors and loyal predecessors.

It is not only to record the military service of the Comrades of the Post, or to tell of the labor done by its members to fulfil the mission of the Order, that these pages are prepared—it is also to enlarge the benefit of the lessons taught within the Encampments by those from other places who have been its guests; not only to open to the world at large the minutes of the Post, that all may become familiar with the purposes of the Grand Army, but to refresh the memory with the recital of good deeds and fraternal greeting.

The numerical strength of the Post (averaging six hundred for the past few years) has forbidden a close companionship with every one, and the extended territory covered by the membership has prevented intimate intercourse between them all. Much

Introduction

has been performed by some that has not been conveyed to the remote residences of others, and more has been said and written by those who have met the distant ones which has not been published to those at home.

There was no arm of the service, during the war which created the parent organization, that is not represented in the Post membership, and no rank in either service was so high but it may be found in the Roster. The Private and the Cabin-boy have fraternized with the General and the Admiral, and altogether there has been a fraternal meeting on the common platform of loyal service in their country's cause.

It is not to eulogize that these volumes are written, because the truthful records will be sufficient praise. Nor is it to boast that these words have been gathered; for the simple history of bravery and sacrifice needs no display. Just a simple story of soldier-life and reminiscence of camp and deck is all that was contemplated, with a compilation of a later enlistment in the country's service, just as loyal and needful after the declaration of peace as was the strife during the period of war.

Within the Post are Comrades who were conspicuous in battle, now wearing Medals of Honor; some who still suffer from wounds never exposed; others who have led a forlorn hope, and remain silent; and from every phase of danger have Comrades come who now shrink from public mention. Every walk in life is represented; every shade of religious belief and political creed; every sort of disposition and grade of fortune. The bronze button has been worn in the presence of every ruler on the earth, and even into darkest Africa has the story of the Grand Army been carried by those who have sat quietly at times around the Post Campfire. There have been deeds of charity not yet told; lessons of sympathy by example, hardly noticed; and public service known only by result. A happy family, sitting in the twilight of life, awaiting the night!

The Campfires have been joyful, the anecdotes cheerful, the songs helpful. The debate, the lecture, the ritual, and the final farewell have all been parts of the system the Post set out to maintain, and in these chapters is the simple record of it all.

Introduction

These volumes are sent forth, then, to link the past to the present and to enlighten the future. When the infirmities of age shall preclude a visit to the Post, Comrades may open the books at their home firesides and find some items to recall to mind forgotten incidents the remembrance of which will make light the darkness gathering about them ; or, turning to the Roster, they may, when life's warfare has nearly closed, like the battle-scarred sergeant after every conflict, call the roll ; and though they will find many among the missing, the wounded, and the dead, in memory every Comrade will be "present or accounted for," and there will come to them through the crevices of the chamber casement the echo of kind words they had often heard, and they will feel again the warm pressure of their Comrades' grasp.

WILBUR F. BROWN.

LAFAYETTE POST, No. 140
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Societies of War Veterans

It is deemed unnecessary by the compiler of this history to make more than a passing reference to the period and service which furnished the material for the foundation on which has been built the grandest secular order in the history of the world — *The Grand Army of the Republic*.

The present generation is too familiar with the history of the Civil War, 1861–65, to require a recapitulation in detail of the events; and the dissemination through public and private libraries of all the circumstances has been so thorough that it would be superfluous to repeat them in this work, issued, in a measure, for the benefit of those who will be actors in the arena of life after the participators on the fields of strife shall have received their final "muster out."

There had been four years of terrible war when on April 2, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox; and on the 26th of the same month when Joseph E. Johnston capitulated to William Tecumseh Sherman, and practically closed the contest, which culminated on May 10th, when Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy, was captured in ignominious flight.

During those four years 2,859,132 men had been enlisted in the Northern Army, of whom 359,528 had given up their lives to save that of the Nation. The Navy had employed 122,000 men in an equally important service.

Nothing binds men so closely to each other as to share together hardship and danger. There had been much of both. The proof of this is found in the record of 224,586 who had died of disease, 43,032 of injuries, 67,058 killed in battle, and 24,852 of mixed causes. Bravery and courage had been sublime, and endurance beyond comparison. The Army had fought more than two thousand engagements, and the Navy had policed the

seas, destroyed privateers, and covered the Army in many important contests.

At the close of the war there were more than a million of Union men under arms, who must be disbanded and returned to their homes to begin a new life or to resume the one which had been interrupted by the necessities of the Nation. Many were discharged who had been more recently recruited and had not yet reached the fields of conflict, and the continuous disbandment of veteran troops began at once to relieve the strain of anxiety on the field, as well as at the fireside, which had tested the patriotism of the whole Northern people of both sexes, in the extreme.

Troops of the armies of the Potomac, of the Tennessee, and of Georgia—150,000 strong—were summoned to the Capital to pass in review before receiving their discharge from the service of war to resume the avocations of peace. It was a grand pageant—the like had never been seen before—but it was not a parade of brilliant uniforms and burnished steel. Neither carried they the “Spoils of War.” The soil of service had settled on the blue uniforms, and the bronze of exposure covered the faces of heroes who were joyful and sad in turn as the hope of family reunion mingled with the memory of departed comrades.

The review was made by President Andrew Johnson and his Cabinet.

The great Abraham Lincoln was with the dead.

Corps leaders and commanders of all grades were absent from the columns, and the every-day comrades who had “touched elbow” in the ranks missed the presence of many with whom they had bivouacked on the field.

When the calls had been made during the four years for patriots to meet in dreadful conflict the misguided men of the South, there had been an uprising of towns and villages that went forth almost *en masse* to share a common danger and to combat a courageous foe. Not so the return. The comrades of years, who had gone forth from the same village and town, who had stood shoulder to shoulder in many a fight and mated together in the same tent, or grouped about a common campfire, had been thinning the ranks as the days wore away, until the

places were filled by others who had been summoned to close the gaps.

It cannot be a surprise, then, that those who survived had formed the closest attachment, that should never be broken—no, not even by Death himself, who would be busy in all the days to follow, claiming for his own the weakened remnants of the bands of American youth who had withstood so much.

With the good-by of separating battalions was the admonition of remembrance, and thus the desire for a continued companionship culminated in the formation of circles and societies bonded together in the friendship that had its birth in the travail of war.

The spontaneity of these societies was remarkable, and they sprang into life like the spring blades of grass that are coaxed to come forth by the warm sun when the hardship of winter has grown into the past. The warmth of comradeship cannot be expressed, it is so general and sincere. The ownership of the blue diamond, or the red crescent, or the white cross was the eligibility which formed the brotherhoods, and they grew in numberless proportion until nearly every army, corps, division, brigade, regiment, company, or crew was bound together by sacred compact, which was not to be broken until the last survivor of the land and sea service of those days should be "mustered in" on the everlasting plains of peace where war shall be unknown.

Neither did they wait, those Boys of the Blue, until the war was finished. Organization began in the midst of service. The first was the

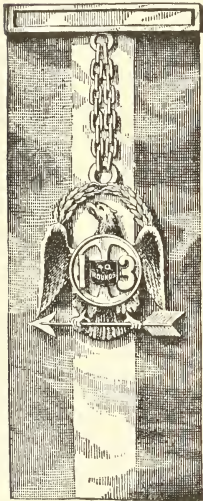
Third Army Corps Union

This Union was formed March 16, 1862. General Daniel E. Sickles was the first President. The object of the association, in the main, was to provide funds for embalming and sending home for burial the bodies of officers killed in battle or dying in hospital at the front. With enlarged purposes it continued after the war, and on July 1-3, 1888, it laid the corner stone of the Third Corps Monument at Gettysburg. All officers and



enlisted men who participated in the battles of the Corps or belonged to it have ever been eligible to membership in the Union. The next organization formed during the war was the

Society of the Army of the Tennessee



It was organized April 14, 1865. Major-General John A. Rawlins was the first President; and two of the members became, later on, the first Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic (Lieutenant Robert M. Woods) and the Adjutant of the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (Captain George R. Steele). The objects of the Society are: "To keep alive and preserve that kindly and cordial feeling which has been one of the characteristics of this army during its career in the service, and which has given it such harmony of action and contributed in no small degree to its glorious achievements in our country's cause. The fame and glory of all officers belonging to this army who have fallen, either on the field of battle or in the line of their daily duty, shall be a sacred trust to this Society, which shall cause proper memorials of their services to be collected and preserved, and thus transmit their names with honor to posterity. The families of all such officers who shall be in indigent circumstances will have a claim upon the generosity of the Society, and will be relieved by the voluntary contributions of its members

whenever brought to their attention. In like manner the suffering families of those officers who may hereafter be stricken by death shall be a trust in the hands of the survivors."

Any member of this Society may designate by will the relative to whom such membership shall descend; and in default of such declaration, the eldest son shall inherit his father's title to enrolment.

General William Tecumseh Sherman was elected President in 1869, and served for many years—if, indeed, not until the day of his death.

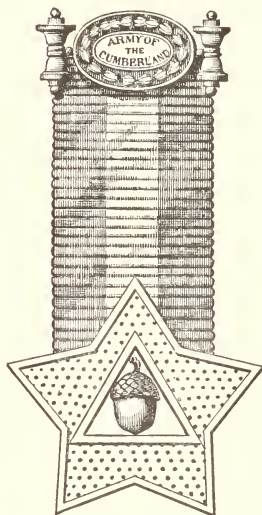
This Society has erected in Washington an equestrian statue of General Rawlins that cost \$50,000, and placed over the grave of Major-General James B. McPherson, at Clyde, Ohio, a memorial costing \$23,000, as well as an equestrian statue of General McPherson in Washington.

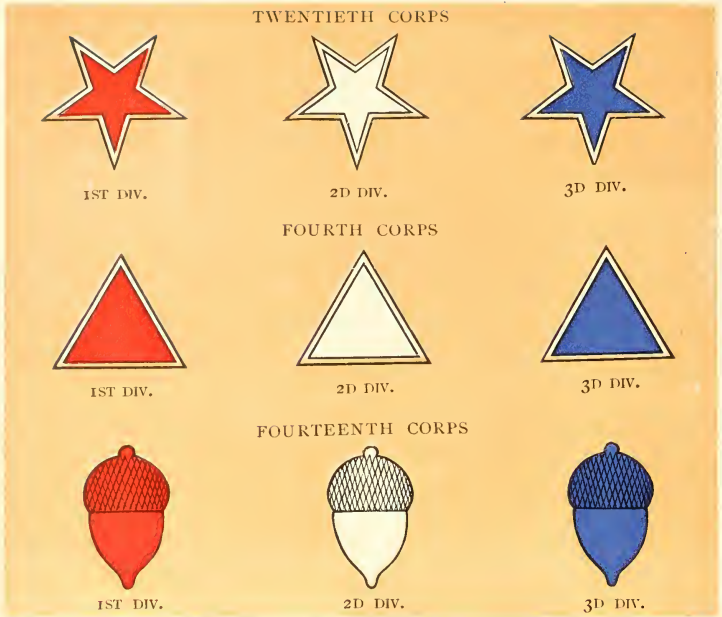
Society of the Army of the Cumberland

This Society was organized February 16, 1868, at Cincinnati, and is composed of officers and enlisted men who served in the Army of the Cumberland. Its first President was Major-General George H. Thomas, and he was succeeded by General W. S. Rosecrans, followed by General Philip H. Sheridan, who retained the position until his death.

The badge is most unique and expressive—the Star representing the insignia of the Twentieth Army Corps, the Triangle of the Fourth, and the Acorn of the Fourteenth Army Corps.

In 1879 this Society erected, at a cost of \$35,000, on a pedestal provided by Congress, an equestrian statue, in Washington, in memory of the intrepid leader and first President, General George H. Thomas; and in 1887 also raised a





monument in tribute to General James A. Garfield, the martyred President of the United States, who died in 1881.

The Society of the Army of the Ohio The Society of the Army of Georgia



SIGNAL CORPS

These societies were of Western origin, and were formed in Chicago, December 15, 1868, at a reunion being held at the time, with Generals Grant (then President-elect of the United States) and Sherman present. Major-General John M. Schofield, afterwards in command of the United States Army, was chosen President.

The United States Veteran Signal Corps Association was organized at Boston in November, 1867.

The Society of the Army of the James

was formed in Boston, September 2, 1868, with General Charles Devens, Jr., President. General Devens afterwards held the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic for two successive terms—1873-4. This Society was not of long duration. Its recollections of service in the Department of the James were so closely identified with those of the Army of the Potomac that it became absorbed by the latter and was incorporated with it in 1876—the centennial year of the Republic.

The Society of the Burnside Expedition and of the Ninth Corps

The organization of this Society was effected February 8, 1869, at New York City, and General Ambrose E. Burnside



(Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, 1871) was elected President, who served in that office until his death. In 1888 General Gilbert H. McKibben* was elected President.

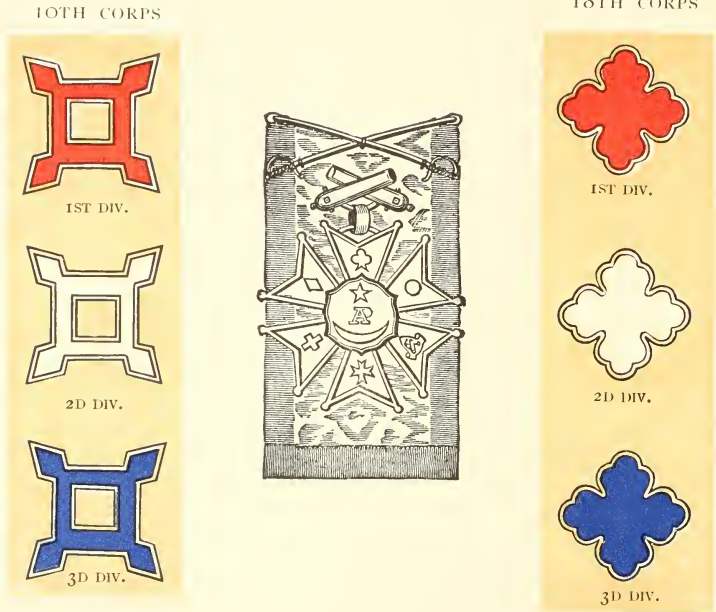
Society of the Army of the Potomac

Of all the societies of war veterans, except the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion, none is so large as the Society of the Army of the Potomac. It was organized in New

* General McKibben was a member of Lafayette Post for six years, from 1884 to 1890, when he was transferred to George Washington Post, No. 103, of New York.

York City, July 5, 1869, and is comprised of officers and soldiers who served in the Tenth and Eighteenth Army Corps and Army of the James.

The Presidents of this Society—among whom have been



Generals Grant, Sheridan, Meade, Hooker, Burnside, McDowell, Hancock, Hartranft, Slocum, Sickles—have been remarkably notable for their army rank. Brevet Major-General John Newton * was elected President at Washington, May 16th.

The Society of the Army and Navy of the Gulf was formed of officers who served in the Department of the Gulf, at a meeting held at Long Branch, N. J., July 8, 1869. Admiral Farragut was President while he lived.

* General Newton was a member of Lafayette Post from December, 1892, until his death, May 1, 1895.

The Society of the Army of West Virginia

This Society came into being in 1869, with General Rutherford B. Hayes (elected President of the United States in 1877) as its first President.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

The Loyal Legion is the largest Veteran Society except the Grand Army of the Republic, and is composed of officers honorably *discharged* from the service—the first one formed with this characteristic.

It was the outcome of a meeting of a few at Philadelphia, on the day after the assassination of President Lincoln, to arrange for a meeting of ex-officers of the Army and Navy to adopt resolutions pertaining to the death of the President. The suggestion of a permanent organization was entertained, and the same was perfected at Philadelphia, May 3, 1865. It is a national organization, with Grand (State) Commanderies in different States. The Order has two classes—first and second—with the oldest sons of members of the first class eligible as members of the second class. The first class is restricted to officers of the war.

The badge is rich in appointment and beautiful in design. In addition to the badge, which is generally reserved for state occasions, the Order has adopted a button, which is constantly worn in the lapel of the coat as a mark of honorable distinction. It is recognized everywhere, at home and abroad, and it is an open sesame to nearly all gatherings the world over.



The Cincinnati Society of ex-Army and Navy Officers was organized October 2, 1874. Colonel Stanley Matthews was the first President.

Pennsylvania Reserve Association

In 1861 Governor Curtin, foreseeing the call to be made for troops for a service of three years, organized the "Pennsylvania Reserves Corps" with fifteen regiments of Pennsylvanians, and they were in active service until the close of the war. The Association was formed of men made eligible by service in the Corps, and became a permanent organization September 14, 1866, "to cherish the memories, perpetuate the friendships, and continue the associations formed in the field."

There is a Grand Army Post (No. 191) in Philadelphia exclusively composed of members who served in the Reserves Corps.

Veterans of the Navy

The sailors of the war, too, had formed ties in the service that were bred of close companionship on the quarterdeck, in the midst of danger. The spirit of association to preserve the memories of days of service and trial came upon the brave men of the sea with a force equal to their allies of the Army. They had shared kindred privations and were as proud of their achievements, which assisted in the grand result of peace. As an outcome of this kinship there came the Farragut Veteran Association of Philadelphia; Connecticut Naval Veteran Association; Farragut Veteran Association of the Port of New York; Farragut Veteran Association of the West; Naval Veteran Legion of California; Essex Association of Naval Veterans, of Essex, Mass.; Naval Veteran Association of the Gulf, of New Orleans; Commodore Foote Naval Veteran Association, St. Louis, Mo.; Kearsarge Association of Naval Veterans, of Boston, Mass.; Monitor Association of Naval Veterans, of Camden, N. J.; all, and a host of others, like the Army Associa-

Department of New York, G. A. R.

tions, acting independently of each other until January 13, 1887, when the "National Association of Naval Veterans" was formed for more concerted action to accomplish their purposes and designs.

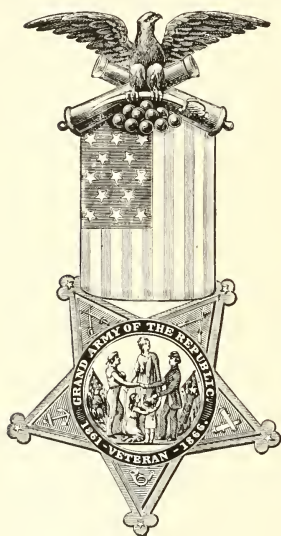
Distinctively Naval Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic have been formed as follows: No. 400, Philadelphia; No. 516, New York City; No. 104, Hoboken.

It is not our purpose to comment on the usefulness of the societies mentioned, either Army or Navy, but broader purposes than fraternal ones moved the minds of those who conceived and brought into being the noblest order the sun has ever shone upon, or the mind of man devised.

The Grand Army of the Republic

The comradeship of two million and more of men who had bivouacked and fought together during the memorable period (1861-65) in the life of our great country required special organi-

zation to perpetuate the memories of friendship born in the camps and cemented on the fields of battle, and the condition of the men who had composed the Army of the North demanded the concentration of effort to ameliorate suffering and obtain proper recognition of service given at so great a cost to themselves and to those dependent upon them for support and sympathy.



The organization of the Order of the Grand Army of the Republic must be accorded to Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson of Springfield, Ill., who organized the first Post at Decatur, April 6, 1866; and the conception of it to the Rev. William J. Rutledge, the Chaplain of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, to whom

is due much praise for his coöperation with Dr. Stephenson in laying the corner stone of this noble association, which has been productive of so much good, not only to the members of it, but to every soldier and sailor who participated in the momentous struggle for the liberty of man, as well as to the Nation in support of the government controlling it.



B. P. Stephenson

FOUNDER OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Department of New York, G. A. R.

The Grand Army of the Republic was conceived amid the havoc of war.

In 1862, when Dr. Stephenson was Major of the Fourteenth Illinois, he formed a close companionship with Chaplain Rutledge, his tent-mate. And in that close communion, which cannot be measured by those who have not met dangers together, it was but natural that two natures such as were possessed by these brave men should reach out into the future for the consummation of some plan to keep alive the associations formed upon the field, and to relieve such distress as they foresaw would follow the disbandment of so many bodies of men who would reach home without occupation and to a great degree unfitted for the civil life to follow when they must cast about for themselves. They knew of the weakened constitutions, of the wounded and crippled, and, worse than these, the thousands of young men who had left home before responsibility had reached them, to be educated to lean upon others for guidance and support.

During Sherman's expedition to Meridian, in February, 1864, the suggestion was made by Chaplain Rutledge that there would be a natural desire, when the war should close, for those who had bivouacked and marched together, sharing hardship and confronting danger, to make social alliance for the preservation of companionship and to keep alive the memories of a united and perilous service. As this forethought widened by consultation and deliberation, there came visions of good to be accomplished if the proper direction was taken, and so they planned in advance, as best they could, without a definite time in view, for a practical crystallization of the many views expressed and pondered over.

The war ended at last in 1865, but it was not until the spring of 1866 when, after much correspondence, the parents of the plan met by appointment to form a creed which would be the faith of nearly half a million of men. The first conference was held in Springfield, Ill., and the result of it was the Grand Army of the Republic.

It is not positively known now who composed the members

of the conference as a whole, but the following were certainly present and took their part in the preliminary discussion at the formation of the Order :

COLONEL JOHN M. SNYDER,
DR. JAMES HAMILTON,
MAJOR ROBERT M. WOODS,
MAJOR ROBERT ALLEN,
CHAPLAIN WILLIAM J. RUTLEDGE,
COLONEL MARTIN FLOOD,
COLONEL DANIEL GRASS,
COLONEL EDWARD PRINCE,
CAPTAIN JOHN S. PHELPS,
CAPTAIN JOHN A. LIGHTFOOT,
CAPTAIN B. F. SMITH,
BREVET MAJOR A. A. NORTH,
CAPTAIN HENRY E. HOWE,
LIEUTENANT B. F. HAWKES,

names which should go down in history to illustrate the American principle that "all men are born free and equal"; for the scope of the Order arranged by these *commissioned officers* embraced every soldier and sailor who had served the country in the dark days of 1861-65, no matter what his term of enlistment or the quality of service. Rank had no place in the minds of these men; it was patriotism that counted for eligibility, only qualified by a "muster in" and an "honorable discharge" from the service in the hour of their country's peril.

By common consent Dr. Stephenson became the Commander of the Department of Illinois, and assumed the duties at once. Secrecy was deemed necessary, and each one as he became engaged in the preliminary work of the Order was obligated to keep sacred and secret the operations in motion. A Ritual was prepared, formed in part from that of the Soldiers' and Sailors' League of St. Louis, and taken to Decatur to be printed in the office of the "Tribune," under the direction of the proprietors and two employers, all of whom had been in the military service, after taking an obligation of secrecy.

There was an Order in Missouri, which had started in 1865, called the "Advance Guard of America," or "The Grand Army

Department of New York, G. A. R.

of Progress," and these, says one author,* probably suggested the title of "The Grand Army of the Republic."

The purposes of the Order were clearly defined and have been fully set forth in the Constitution of the Organization, as follows :

1. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late Rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.
2. To assist such former Comrades-in-arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.
3. To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, its Constitution and Laws ; to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions ; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

The persons eligible to membership are :

Soldiers and sailors of the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, who served between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865, in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, and those having been honorably discharged therefrom after such service, and of such State regiments as were called into active service and subject to the orders of United States general officers between the dates mentioned.

No person is eligible who has at any time borne arms against the United States.

The First Post

On the sixth day of April, 1866, the first Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Ill., under the following charter :

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS.

To all whom it may concern, greeting :

Know ye, that the Commander of the Department of Illinois, reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism and fidelity of M. F. Kanan, G. R. Steele, Geo. H. Dunning, I. C. Pugh, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, C. Reibsame, J. W. Routh, B. F. Sibley, I. N. Coltrin, Joseph Prior, and A. Toland, does, by the authority in him vested,

* General Robert B. Beath.



Lafayette Post, No. 140.

empower and constitute them charter members of an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be known as Post 1, of Decatur, District of Macon, Department of Illinois; and they are hereby constituted as said Post, and authorized to make by-laws for the government of said Post, and to do and perform all acts necessary to conduct and carry on said Organization in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Done at Springfield, Illinois, this sixth day of April, 1866.

B. F. STEPHENSON,

Commander of Department.

ROBERT M. WOODS, *Adjutant-General.*

The minutes of the first meeting are as follows :

At an informal meeting, held April 6, 1866, for the purpose of organizing an Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the following-named persons were mustered by Major Stephenson, and constituted Charter Members: I. C. Pugh, George R. Steele, J. W. Routh, Joseph Prior, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, G. H. Dunning, B. F. Sibley, M. F. Kanan, C. Reibsame, I. N. Coltrin, Aquilla Toland; when, upon motion, the Encampment entered into an election of officers with the following result :

Officers of the District—Brigadier-General I. C. Pugh, Commandant of the District; Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Nale, District Quartermaster; Dr. J. W. Routh, Adjutant.

Officers of the Post—M. F. Kanan, Post Commander; G. R. Steele, Post Adjutant; G. H. Dunning, Post Quartermaster; C. Reibsame, Officer of the Day; J. T. Bishop, Officer of the Guard; J. W. Routh, Post Surgeon; all of whom were duly mustered by Major Stephenson, who then declared the Encampment duly organized and ready for the transaction of any and all business which might come before it, and assigned to it the

POST OF HONOR

as

DECATUR ENCAMPMENT, NO. 1.

On motion, a committee of two was appointed to procure a suitable room for the Encampment and report at the next regular meeting. Captains Kanan and Dunning, Committee.

On motion, Tuesday was decided upon as the night for regular meetings.

On motion, adjourned to meet April 10, 1866.

[Signed]

M. F. KANAN, P. C.

G. R. STEELE, P. A.

The first recruits after the organization of the Post were N. G. Burns, Henry Gorman, N. E. Winholtz, W. H. Andrews,

Department of New York, G. A. R.

and W. H. B. Rowe, who were mustered in due form at the meeting of April 10th.

It may be well at this point to give a synopsis of the rank of the Comrades of Post 1, to show the absolute disregard of titles or length of service of those chosen to be the first members of the Order.

Kanan, M. F. Enlisted as First Lieutenant, Co. A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged as Captain; term of service, 3 years, 4 months.

Steele, George R. Enlisted as Second Lieutenant, Co. A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged as Captain; term of service, 4 years, 4 months.

Dunning, G. H.* Enlisted as Captain, Co. A, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged as Captain; term of service, 1 year, 5 months.

Pugh, Isaac C.* Enlisted as Captain, Co. A, Eighth Illinois Infantry; discharged as Brevet Brigadier-General; term of service, 3 years, 11 months.

Nale, John H.* Enlisted as Captain, Co. A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged Lieutenant-Colonel; term of service, 3 years, 1 month.

Bishop, J. T. Enlisted as First Lieutenant, Co. I, 116th Illinois Infantry; discharged as Captain; term of service, 1 year, 6 months.

Reibsame, Christian. Enlisted as Private, Co. B, 116th Illinois Infantry; discharged as Captain; term of service, 2 years, 10 months.

Routh, J. W.* Enlisted as Corporal, Co. A, Forty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged as Hospital Steward; term of service, 3 years, 1 month.

Sibley, B. F. Enlisted as Surgeon, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry; discharged as Surgeon; term of service, about 1 year.

Coltrin, Isaac N. Enlisted Co. E, Sixty-sixth Illinois Infantry; term of service, 3 months.

Prior, Joseph M. Enlisted as First Sergeant, Co. E, Sixty-eighth Illinois Infantry; term of service, four months.

* Dead.

Toland, Aquilla.* Enlisted as Private, Co. E, Seventeenth Ohio; discharged as First Lieutenant.

Of the twelve original members of Post No. 1, six are known to have died.

The Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic was originally very verbose (the Post Commander's charge having about two thousand words); but it was soon revised by a freedom of erasures, cutting down the charge nearly one-half.

Plan of Organization

The plan of organization was very elaborate in the beginning, and provided for many auxiliaries which have since been dispensed with, to wit:

Precinct; to be known as Post No. — (name of city, town, township, ward, or precinct). The officers were Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster, an "Officer of the Day and such other officers as should be necessary for the transaction of business, to be detailed by the commanding officer."

County; to be known as District of (name of county), with a District Commander, an Assistant Adjutant-General, and a District Quartermaster.

State; to be known as Department of (name of State), with a Department Commander, Adjutant-General, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Quartermaster-General.

National; to be known as "The Grand Army of the Republic," with a Commanding Officer, Adjutant-General, and Quartermaster-General.

Posts were to have no direct representation in the Department Assembly. The District Organization was to consist of one Delegate for every ten members of the Order within the county, and was to have the supervision of Posts and the creating of them. The Department Organization, which was to meet once a year, was to be composed of one Delegate from each county or district. The National Organization was to be composed of two Delegates from each Department.

* Dead.

Department of New York, G. A. R.

In July, 1866, at the Convention held in Springfield, Ill., the Constitution was amended and additional offices were provided. In the National Organization, an Assistant Commanding Officer, Surgeon-General, and Chaplain were added. In Departments, an Assistant Department Commander, Surgeon-General, and Chaplain. In Posts, an Assistant Post Commander, Post Surgeon, Post Chaplain, Officer of the Day, and Officer of the Guard.

The Constitution as amended contained the following

Declaration of Principles

SECTION I. The soldiers of the Volunteer Army of the United States during the Rebellion of 1861-5, actuated by the impulses and convictions of patriotism and of eternal right, and combined in the strong bands of fellowship and unity by the toils, the dangers, and the victories of a long and vigorously waged war, feel themselves called upon to declare, in definite form of words and in determined coöperative action, those principles and rules which should guide the earnest patriot, the enlightened freeman, and the Christian citizen in his course of action; and to agree upon those plans and laws which should govern them in a united and systematic working method with which, in some measure, shall be effected the preservation of the grand results of the war, the fruits of their labor and toil, so as to benefit the deserving and worthy.

SECTION II. The results which are designed to be accomplished by this organization are as follows:

First. The preservation of those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together, with the strong cords of love and affection, the Comrades-in-arms of many battles, sieges, and marches.

Second. To make these ties available in works and results of kindness, of favor, and material aid to those in need of assistance.

Third. To make provision, where it is not already done, for the support, care, and education of soldiers' orphans, and for the maintenance of the widows of deceased soldiers.

Fourth. For the protection and assistance of disabled soldiers, whether disabled by wounds, sickness, old age, or misfortune.

Fifth. For the establishment and defence of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially, and politically, with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of their services to the country, and to a recognition of such services and claims by the American people.

The First Department

The first Department organized was that of Illinois, at this Convention of Springfield. The growth of the Grand Army of the Republic was very slow in the beginning; the result of the plan seemed very doubtful to many, but at the time of the opening of the Convention thirty-nine Posts had been chartered.

Notwithstanding the Constitution provided that State organizations should be composed of one delegate from each county or district, it was not strictly adhered to, as the call for the Convention was as follows :

A Convention of the members of the *Grand Army of the Republic* and Illinois soldiers and sailors will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives at Springfield, Ill., on Thursday, July 12th, 1866.

The business to be transacted at this meeting is of the highest importance to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors.

Delegates are expected from every Post in the State.

As many of our soldiers have not had an opportunity to join our Army, they will be mustered in on that occasion.

The soldiers of the State of Illinois who desire to assist in the care of the families of their fallen Comrades, of the disabled and unfortunate, who would assist each other by acts of friendship and of charity, and who wish to establish and maintain the rights of the volunteer soldiers of the late war, morally, socially, and politically, are requested to meet with us.

There were eighty-nine persons present at this Convention, and the principal business transacted was the perfection of a Department organization and the election of Department Officers.

Major-General John M. Palmer was elected Department Commander. He became the head of the Order by this election, the national organization not having been completed.

It was a grievous disappointment to Major Stephenson not to be chosen the Department Commander, but it was decided that the Order would advance more rapidly and receive more popular recognition with an officer of rank who had served throughout the war in prominent service. Major-General Palmer had commanded two divisions during the war—one in the



GENERAL JOHN M. PALMER
FIRST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Department of New York, G. A. R.

Fourth and one in the Fourteenth Army Corps, and later had commanded the Fourteenth and Twenty-first Corps. He afterwards became Governor of Illinois, and served in that capacity from 1869 to 1873.

The disappointment of Major Stephenson was to some extent relieved by his assumption of the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he gave his attention to other States.

The formation of other Departments was in progress until, in October, 1866, the States of Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota were counted among the organized Departments, and Posts had been formed in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.

On November 20, 1866, a National Convention was convened at Indianapolis, Ind., which was composed of representatives from Posts and by District and Department Officers. This representation was not strictly in accord with the Constitution, amended at Springfield, which prescribed that each Department should have but two representatives in the national organization, but it would have been impracticable at that early day to organize a National Encampment on that basis.

1866-1867

The first National Convention was called by the following order :

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., October 31, 1866.

General Orders, }
No. 13. }

A National Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic is hereby ordered to convene at Indianapolis, Ind., at 10 o'clock, on Tuesday, the twentieth day of November next, for the purpose of perfecting the National Organization, and the transaction of such other business as may come before the Convention.

The ratio of representation shall be as follows : Each Post shall be entitled to one Representative ; and when the membership exceeds one hundred, to one additional Representative ; and in the same ratio for every additional one hundred or fractional part thereof.

Lafayette Post, No. 140,

All Department and District Officers, *ex-officio*, shall be members of said Convention.

All honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, and those now serving in the Army, desirous of becoming members of the Grand Army of the Republic, are respectfully invited to attend the Convention.

All Comrades are requested to wear the "blue," with Corps badges, etc.

B. F. STEPHENSON,

Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R., U. S.

Official:

J. C. WEBBER,

Adjt.-Gen'l, Dept. Illinois.

There were 228 Representatives present at this Convention, representing the following Departments: District of Columbia, 1; Illinois, 34; Indiana, 148; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 3; Missouri, 9; New York, 1; Ohio, 15; Pennsylvania, 3; Wisconsin, 7; and among them was General Daniel Macauley, of Indiana, who afterward removed to New York City and became a member of Lafayette Post, No. 140, June 3, 1887.

Major-General Stephen A. Hurlbut was elected Commander-in-Chief—the first by election, Major Stephenson having been a provisional officer.

During the administration of Commander-in-Chief Hurlbut the Grand Army of the Republic passed over a very critical period, owing to the inability, in consequence of his personal affairs, of General Hurlbut to devote proper attention to it. Although Major Stephenson was the Adjutant-General, he did not possess the faculty of executive direction.

The National Convention was not convened during the year, which gave much dissatisfaction. An appeal was made by influential members of the Order to the Commander-in-Chief, advising him of the danger of delay, and finally the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, McKean, consented to issue the order if another appeal to Headquarters should not avail. This necessity did not arise. General Orders, No. 46, were issued by the Commander-in-Chief, calling for the assembly in Philadelphia on January 15, 1868. Department Commanders were required to call a meeting of their Departments, if not already done, prior to the date of the National Convention to elect delegates thereto.



S. A. Hulbert

SECOND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED MARCH 27, 1882

Department of New York, G. A. R.

There were twenty-one Departments represented and 186 Delegates present.

An emphasis was given at this session to the words "without regard to former rank," in referring back the report of the Committee on Credentials to eliminate the military titles of Comrades.

The financial report showed a deficiency of \$1,285.56, the disbursements having been \$1,637.56 and the receipts \$352—such was the result of the system of taxation. The delinquent Departments comprised more than 1,400 Posts, and it was recommended that each Department should be assessed one dollar for each Post therein. This did not bring the needed supply, for only \$302 was collected. The condition, however, was tided over by a personal advance of \$500 in cash and the payment of bills amounting to nearly \$1,400 by Comrade J. T. Owen, of Philadelphia, which advance was not repaid in full until the lapse of three years.

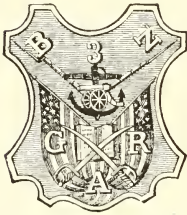
The most serious danger attending the Organization, however, was the partisan nature of the Order that was growing with it and had already nearly destroyed it in the West. A secret organization for partisan purposes was considered by many to be un-American and prejudicial to good results.

This was a crucial year for the Order. At this National Encampment it was proposed to alter the terms of the Declaration of Principles and to more closely define them, that it might be clearly understood that the Order was to be non-partisan. This caused an animated debate, some maintaining that the Organization should be political in its purport, while others held that it could not be held together if it should cause the popular belief to become a certainty that it was a secret political association. After a long and warm discussion an amendment to the proposition was carried, "that this Association does not design to make nominations for office or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes."

Up to this time the personal welfare of the soldier had received but little consideration at the hands of the National Government. Service in the Army or Navy was considered

more of a disqualification than a qualification for service in a civil office, and so remarkable did this distinction against the soldier or sailor become that the Delegates of this Encampment adopted strong resolutions memorializing Congress to frame a law so that honorable service as a soldier or sailor of the country should constitute a qualification for appointment, and that a definite and equitable number should be chosen from the list of applicants, if shown to possess the requisite skill and fitness. Also, to protect those already in the civil employment of the Government from being discriminated against by those having the power of removal in any future reduction of the number in civil employment.

The resolutions to this effect were engrossed, and certified copies were sent to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the request that Senators and Representatives should give the subject their early and earnest attention.

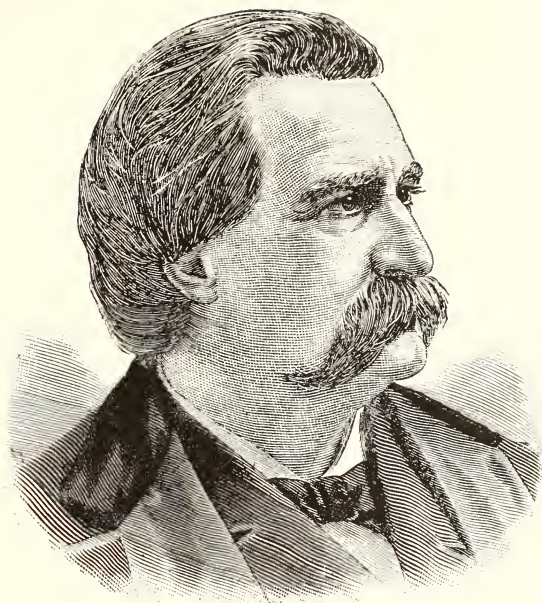


ORIGINAL BADGE

These resolutions became very effective, and many a defender of the flag owes his livelihood to this early petition and remonstrance.

The original badge of the Grand Army of the Republic was adopted during this term, but was of short duration, its symbolic expressions being incomplete and inadequate.

County or District organizations were abolished by this Encampment, and, at the election of officers, Major-General John A. Logan, of Illinois, was chosen to be Commander-in-Chief, although he was not present at the Encampment.



John A. Logan

THIRD COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED DECEMBER 26, 1886

1868

Memorial Day

One of the earliest acts of Commander-in-Chief Logan was to issue the following order :

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1868.

General Orders, }
No. 11. }

I. The thirtieth day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating, the graves of Comrades who died in defence of their country during the late Rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and Comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, Comrades, as our Regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late Rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed ground. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism or avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided Republic.

If other eyes grow dull, and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains, and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us, a sacred charge upon a Nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance, with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year while a survivor of the

war remains to honor the memory of his departed Comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of Comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department Commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By command of

N. P. CHIPMAN,
Adjutant-General.

JOHN A. LOGAN,
Commander-in-Chief.

The origin of Memorial Day has been for several years a subject of discussion in many circles, and the press has been called upon to give a history of it almost every recurring season since the order of Commander-in-Chief Logan inaugurating it was issued. It has been claimed that a custom prevailing in Germany, where the people decorate the graves of their friends with flowers in springtime, was brought to the attention of General Logan, through the Adjutant-General of the Grand Army, by a private soldier of the Union Army who was a native of Germany; but this cannot be traced farther than the memory of General Chipman, who recalls the incident, but not the name of the soldier.

The issuing of the order, however, was not the beginning of the decorating of soldiers' graves. Before its promulgation a "Decoration Day" had been observed in Southern States by veteran Confederates. In 1866 the graves of soldiers had been decorated by a band of their living Comrades at Waterloo, New York, and it has been stated that Posts in Cincinnati, Ohio, had assembled in 1867 to decorate their Comrades' graves.

It may be interesting to those who still honor the custom, and faithfully and reverently perform the beautiful tribute to those whom they still remember as Comrades with whom they touched elbow in the memorable four years of war, to learn from the widow of General Logan the story as she remembers it after so many years.

The writer, of whom the question of the origin of the beautiful and sanctified custom had often been asked, sought of Mrs. Logan the information desired, and now for the first time makes public her reply :

Carmel Place
Washington D.C.
June 17, 1897

My Dear Mr Brown.

I am glad to give you the true history of the origin of Decoration or more properly - Memorial Day. Many persons have claimed the credit of suggesting it to Genl Logan. Curiously enough they have all made these claims since his death. In March 1868, Col Chas L Wilson of Chicago, Ill. Editor of the Evening Journal and Miss Farrow of Boston li

niece Miss Anna Wilson
now Mrs Horatio May
of Chicago came to Washington
en route to visit the battle-
fields & fortifications in
& around Richmond Va
Col Wilson wanted Gen Logan
and myself to accompany
them at the last moment
Gen Logan could not
leave his duties in the
House of Rep^s But I went
with them on this then very
interesting expedition because
of the many traces of the
wonderful scenes so recently
wrought in that locality

amid the desolation and
ruin on either side in
all directions there was
no place that made
a deeper impression
upon us than the caucuses
with the hundreds of graves
These confederate graves had
all been decorated with
floral wreaths and little
flags the way before and
presented a pathetic pic-
-ture as we straggled through
the many avenues lined
on either side by low mounds
upon which had been laid
these tributes by the survivors

of the dreadful battles
around Richmond. When we
returned to Washington we
then lived at Willard's Hotel,
each of the party tried to
tell Paul Logan of what
we saw etc. Among other
things I spoke of the decora-
-ed graves as an evidence of
the devotion of the Southern
people to the memory of their
dead who had died in the
Southern cause. All comment
-ed upon the touching spectacle
Paul Logan insisted the
Memorial was not original
with them but a worthy imitation

the custom of
of "classic" people in an-
cient times and expressed
his intention to at once
issue an order as Com-
mander in Chief of the
Grand Army of the Republic
to have the graves of the
patriotic dead strewn
with flowers annually;
and if the people regard-
ed and cooperated as
he believed they would
that he would secure
the passage of a Joint-
Resolution making the
Day a National Holiday.
The response was very gratifying

It was made a National
Holiday - and Congress
appropriated the money
to issue the proceedings
or rather reports of the
ceremonies and addresses
which occurred from Maine
to California inclusive
The volume was edited by
E. J. M. Peck (now dead)
but the matter was so volumi-
nous subsequently that
no other volumes were
published. The first volume
is entitled "National Memorial Day
Numerous the simple facts
to the best of my knowledge

and believ- other statements
to the contrary notwithstanding.

Genl Logan sent for
Genl Chipman then
Adjutant Genl G. H. B.,
and they ^{wrote} both in accordance
the matter and the ^{1st} order
was issued May 5th 1868
Genl issued the 2nd order also. April 12th 1869

I presume you have a
copy of this order if you
have not well one and
I will gladly have it copied
for you.

Very Truly
Mrs John A Logan

It seems almost incredible, after all these years, that there should have been any who doubted the wisdom of inaugurating so beautiful and refined an observance. Notwithstanding the example of the Confederates in adopting such a custom, many claimed that it would keep alive the memories of the war and nourish animosities that should be allowed to die a natural death.

There has been no act of the Grand Army which has done more to preserve the Order and to nourish a proper spirit of reverence, and forgiveness too, than the annual observance of Memorial Day, which has been hallowed by the sweet companionship of flowers as they were gathered from every hill-side and strewn upon every known grave. No flowers are too rich or rare to be a becoming sacrifice on the graves of fallen soldiers, of which none too humble to be forgotten. The dead of both armies in many places lie side by side in known and unknown graves, and the Union and Confederate mourners have exchanged flowers of tribute as they did homage to valor and banished hatred from their minds.

On Guard

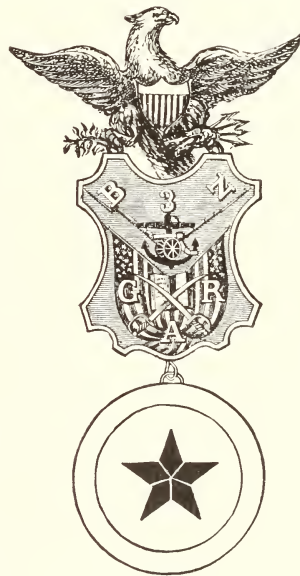
It may not be generally known that the country was saved from another civil strife early in the year 1868 by the courage and steadfastness of Commander-in-Chief Logan and the assurance of support he received from members of the Order during the exciting days when President Johnson attempted the removal from office of Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War. The resignation of Mr. Stanton had been requested in August, 1867. He refused to resign, and General U. S. Grant was appointed provisional Secretary of War. When, in January, 1868, the Senate declined to concur in the dismissal of Mr. Stanton, General Grant vacated the War Office, and Mr. Stanton again took possession. In February an order was issued by the President summarily dismissing Mr. Stanton, who refused to vacate the office or acknowledge the legality of the President's order. The movements of the President were closely watched

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by men of will and patriotism, and Mr. Stanton was supported and advised by loyal and able advisers. Commander-in-Chief Logan, then a member of the House of Representatives, attended to his duties during the day ; met his Grand Army staff in the evening at Willard's Hotel, where he lived ; and spent the night with Mr. Stanton in the War Office, which the Secretary did not leave night or day lest it should be seized in his absence. Sentinels of Grand Army men were posted at convenient places, and signals were arranged for assembly at the War Office should an attempt be made to seize the office and dispossess the occupant. Arms and ammunition were secretly issued to the Comrades, who hardly realized the purpose of the issue, but were loyal to their leaders, and would have obeyed the orders given, even if to lay down their lives in their support. This had a most salutary effect, for by some means or other the President learned of these manœuvres, and questioned General Logan about them. He was assured that any attempt to forcibly eject the Secretary and take possession of the War Department would be met by a force of soldiery ready to respond in opposition to his plans to obtain control of the Army for the perpetuation of his personal power.

Change of Badge

The National Council of Administration met in the quarters of Post 1, Philadelphia, October 1, 1868, to consider principally the matter of a better design for a badge of the Order. The change in the original badge was made by the addition of an eagle above and a circle below, the latter to contain the insignia of rank for



an officer. Although this badge was adopted and contracts entered into with a manufacturer for many qualities, ranging in price from forty cents to twenty-five dollars each, they were not completed, because of the failure of the manufacturer.

The Badge

There was, in addition to the failure of the manufacturer who had received the contract for the badge of 1868, a strong opposition to its incompleteness, as well as to the variety of materials it was to be made from, and the varied prices.

It was therefore recommended to the Special Encampment, held in New York during the present year, that a design arranged by General F. A. Starring,* Inspector-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, should be adopted. Circular No. 2, from National Headquarters, issued in February, 1870, describes the badge as follows :

“The badge is of bronze, made from cannon captured in different decisive battles during the late Rebellion, and in form a five-pointed star, similar in design to the two hundred Medals of Honor authorized by act of Congress to be given to soldiers and sailors most distinguished for meritorious and gallant conduct during the late war.

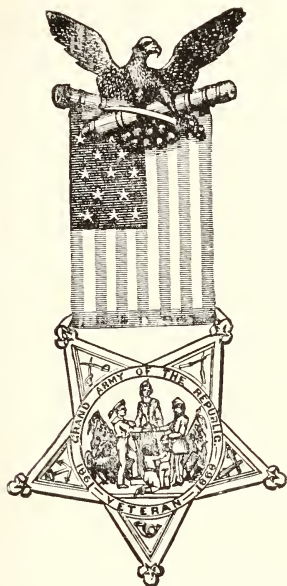
“The Obverse

“In the centre of the badge is the figure of the Goddess of Liberty, representing Loyalty ; on either side a soldier and a sailor clasping hands, representing Fraternity ; and two children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the Comrades, representing Charity. On each side of the group is the national flag, and the eagle, representing Freedom, and the axe and bundle of rods, or fasces, representing Union. In each point of the star are the insignia of the various arms of the service, viz.: The *Bugle* for Infantry, *Cross Cannon* for Artillery, *Cross Muskets* for the Marine, *Cross Swords* for Cavalry, and

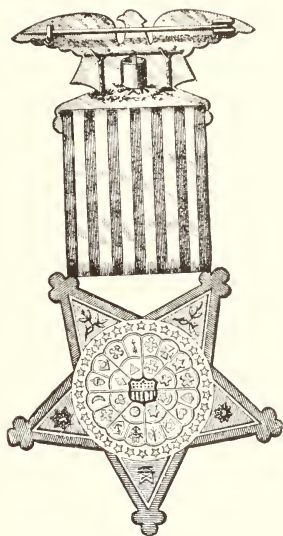
* General Frederick A. Starring was a member of Lafayette Post, No. 140, Department of New York, from May, 1895, to January, 1899.

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the *Anchor* for Sailors. Over the central group are the words, 'Grand Army of the Republic'; and under, the word and figures, '1861—Veteran—1866,' commemorating the beginning



OBVERSE



REVERSE

and close of the Rebellion, and also the date of the organization of the Order.

“ The Reverse

represents a branch of laurel—the crown and reward of the brave—in each point of the star. The national shield in the centre, surrounded by twenty-four recognized Corps badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together, showing they are united and will guard and protect the shield of the Nation. Around the centre is a circle of stars, representing the States of the Union and the Departments composing the Grand Army of the Republic.

“The Clasp

is composed of the figure of an Eagle, with Cross, Cannon, and Ammunition, representing Defence, the Eagle with drawn sword hovering over and always ready to protect from insult or dishonor the National Flag, which is also the Emblem and Ribbon of the Order.”

1869

The third annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held at Cincinnati, May 12th, on which occasion Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan presided. His address at the opening frames a wonderful picture of the disbandment of the armies, without any resulting features of lawlessness or chaos; among other reasons given was the influence of the Grand Army of the Republic. The address is a finished piece of oratory, and worthy of repetition whenever occasion permits:

Extract from Annual Address

In classic days both republican and imperial Rome had been shaken to its centre by disbanded soldiery, while in Greece and Spain the mountain fastnesses had been filled with desperadoes from such bodies, whose subsistence was wrung from passing travellers or peaceful *haciendas*. Even our neighboring Republic of Mexico had furnished examples of the danger to mankind of forcing bodies of soldiers from their avocation to the quiet scenes of ordinary life.

But neither Rome, Greece, Spain, nor Mexico was ever tried by such an ordeal as ours. Their disbanded armies were, in comparison with ours, almost as nothing. In fact, there is not in human history a case cited, except ours, in which a million of soldiers were, in a day, removed from belligerent to peaceful life. Probably there is no government on earth, except our own, that would have dared to try the experiment. I am confident there is no other in which such a trial would be safe.

No outbreak, no revolution, no disaster of any magnitude has followed the segregation of these million warriors. They sought their homes with joyful hearts and tuneful voices. There were no tears of mourning over the cast-off trappings and habiliments of strife. The hand grown cunning in the use of arms applied itself to the axe, the hammer, the loom, and the spade. Battle shouts had given place

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to exultations over victory, and these, in turn, were followed by the songs of joy, of love and peace, that sanctify that place of heaven called home.

Very much of this sublime result is due, doubtless, to the form of government under which we live; much is attributable to the educational influences among which we were reared; and much, very much, to the organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic.

This Order originated in a desire for mutual protection, aid, and education. We never feared that the toils and sufferings of our soldiery would be forgotten or fail to be appreciated by the mass of our countrymen, but we did fear that high officials might at times be prompted by their selfishness to disregard or neglect us.

Politically, our object is not to mingle in the strifes of parties, but by our strength and numbers to be able to exact from all a recognition of our rights with others.

We desire, further, by this organization, to commemorate the gallantry and sufferings of our Comrades, give aid to bereaved families, cultivate fraternal sympathy among ourselves, find employment for the idle, and, generally, by our acts and precepts, to give the world a practical example of unselfish, manly coöperation.

Thus far our efforts have proved successful. The report of the Adjutant-General will present fully the history and progress of our Order, and more than sustain our highest hopes of the future. The burden of many crosses has been lifted from many hearts. Famishing souls and bodies have been fed. Manly excellence has been developed and cultivated, while public, social, and domestic life among our Comrades has been purified and blessed through our humane endeavors.

I congratulate you that our Order flourishes now as it never has done before, and that peace, tranquillity, and industry are comparatively universal among ourselves and throughout our national domain.

Let us foster and cherish this benevolent Order, so useful in the past, so beneficent in the present, and giving such promise for the future. Let us unite in vigorous efforts to extend and perpetuate its power.

While in the flush and strength of manhood we may not fully grasp and realize the fact that man's true interest lies in doing good; but when the golden bowl of life is breaking, when our faces become carved in storied hieroglyphics by the stylus and pantagraph of age, each act of kindness done, each word of kindness spoken, will, by natural compensating law, return, like the dove of Ararat, to the soul from which it was sent, and bearing with it branches of unfading green from the Post "beyond the river."

Although the beautiful words and glowing eloquence of Commander-in-Chief Logan congratulated the Organization on its moral progress, it was in a most discouraging condition from a practical point of view. It was believed by the general public, and by veterans as well, that it was a secret political society, and this belief deterred many from uniting with it in membership.

A debt hung over the Order for borrowed money and unpaid bills, and the discipline among the Posts and Departments was remarkably lax.

It became necessary that extraordinary efforts should be put forth to overcome the causes which prevented practical, numerical, and financial prosperity. The Rules and Regulations were enlarged and rearranged, and, in order to attract members to the Post meetings and increase or maintain an interest, the Ritual was arranged to cover three grades of membership: *First*, Recruit. *Second*, Soldier. *Third*, Veteran. Members of the First Grade were not eligible to office, nor privileged to take any part in the Post meetings. Membership as a Recruit for two months after muster was necessary before the Recruit could be advanced to the Second Grade, and a member of the Second Grade could not be advanced to the Third, or Veteran, Grade until after a probation of six months in the Second Grade. The office of Commander, Senior and Junior Vice-Commanders, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain, Officer of the Day, and Officer of the Guard could only be filled by members of the Veteran Grade, although Second Grade members were entitled to vote.

To advance from First to Second Grade required an application, and the recommendation in writing of two members of the Second Grade, and an election by a two-thirds vote.

An advancement to the Third Grade from the Second required the same form as for the Second. Members of the First Grade were admitted to the meetings of the Second Grade, but were not privileged to do anything but *think*; but they must absent themselves during the advancement of Recruit to Soldier.

Third Grade, or Veteran, members only were eligible to Department or National offices, or to be delegates to either of the Encampments, and the appointments of the Commander-in-Chief or Department Commanders must be made from this grade.

There was a Ritual provided for each of the three grades, with signs, grips, and passwords.

General Orders, No. 3, were issued June 3d, to put in operation the grade system, which contained the following provisions:

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First. That the following shall be eligible to the Third Grade upon their taking the several obligations :

All present and past officers of the National Encampment and of the several Department Encampments ; all present and past Commanders, Vice-Commanders, Adjutants, Quartermasters, Surgeons, and Chaplains of Posts, together with all members of the Grand Army of the Republic who shall have been members eight months ; *provided*, that they shall be in good standing in their respective Posts and Departments, and free from all dues on the first of July, 1869 ; *and provided*, they take the several obligations prior to the first day of September, 1869.

Second. Provided, that Comrades who have been members two months shall constitute the Second Grade on taking the obligations, etc.

Third. All Recruits received on and after July 1, 1869, shall constitute the First Grade.

This legislation, however, did not improve the condition. The adhesive power of form and ceremony in Freemasonry had no influence for good in the Grand Army of the Republic. Its loadstone was to be helpfulness. Without the power and numerical strength of the Grand Army of the Republic, with the potential influence of its political affinity, the veteran of the Civil War would have had a sorry protection from the Government, which had been saved by men weakened through exposure and irregularity of life. It required a deeper and sincerer influence than ceremony and display to keep together the veterans of hardship.

It was but natural that a resource of some nature should be adopted to revive the depression that had enveloped the Order, and the success of other societies which had adopted degrees invited and encouraged the adoption of a similar system to support and enlarge the Grand Army of the Republic.

The adoption of the resolutions providing for the grade system practically banished from the Order all who neglected or declined to take the new obligation, and many did refuse, claiming that they were members and could not be ruled out by new regulations. Department Commanders and Post Commanders in many instances lost interest in their commands and allowed matters to drift whithersoever they would. Thousands of members were lost to the Order, and even whole Posts dropped out of existence.

It had been estimated that 240,000 members were enrolled before the adoption of the grade system, but these figures are uncertain because of the imperfect manner of making returns or keeping records; yet the loss was severe, because after a two years' trial of the system only 25,000 members could be accounted for.

The other exceptionally strong hindrance, not only to the progress of the Order, but to the maintenance of it, was the opinion that politics was a feature that held it in control. The necessity therefore existed that some decisive action should be taken to remove the impression, correct or erroneous as it might prove to be.

It is not remembered that there were any fears expressed because of the existence of an organization of a quarter of a million of men bound together by secret oath, as there would have been in other countries if such a condition existed, but it was not considered to be a healthy existence for so large a number to be politically plotting in secret, hence the Order with such an attribute was not favored by those ineligible; and many who were eligible were too honest in their own convictions to ally themselves with an organization so justly open to adverse criticism while the impression of political plotting in secret prevailed.

The Committee on Resolutions of the Encampment in session made a report presenting several preambles and resolutions which were unanimously adopted. They were strong and frank; they reiterated the purposes of the Order, eschewed politics in every ulterior form, and openly avowed the principles of its foundation and sustenance.

Extract from the Report of the Committee on Resolutions

Whereas, The Organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic is founded upon the glorious and world-wide-embracing principles of fraternity, charity, and loyalty to our flag and country; and

Whereas, Its success in the past is the best guarantee of its future prosperity; and

Whereas, The welfare of our living Comrades, and that of the orphans and widows of the honored dead, and the maintenance of our sacred principles, demand renewed efforts in its behalf; therefore, by the National Encampment, through the representatives here assembled, be it

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Resolved, That the destiny of the Grand Army of the Republic is not fulfilled until it shall embrace within its protective folds every one of the million of honorably discharged soldiers of the several arms of the service during the late War of the Rebellion; until the families of those requiring assistance are beyond the reach of want, and their children properly educated and cared for by the country; and until the last faithful veteran soldier has surrendered without dishonor to the Great Conqueror of all mankind, and has been released from his bonds, and mustered into a grander army above.

Resolved, That it is through this Organization alone that the bonds of fraternal feeling can be successfully sustained and strengthened, and the electric currents of sympathy and brotherly affection, born of common toil and danger, be evolved and hastened in their courses through the thousand hearts scattered over the wide expanse of our ever-growing empire.

Resolved, That that charity which speaks through kind actions and benevolent deeds and sacrificing efforts for those associated with us shall ever be one of our cardinal principles, and carefully exemplified in our practice.

Resolved, That we shall cling to the principles and practices of loyalty to flag and country with the same pertinacity and energy with which we sustained it in the field; and that no foe, foreign or domestic, shall ever find us backward in rushing to the rescue of the Government we have saved, by whatever danger it may be assailed; that our hearts still beat time to the "music of the Union," and will ever be found vibrating in harmony with the pulsations of the national life.

Resolved, That whatsoever suspicion of political nature may have heretofore attached to the Grand Army of the Republic as to its being a political organization, that we hereby declare it above and independent of all partisan feeling and action, and actuated only by a determination to sustain to the fullest extent the principles so clearly defined in the Rules and Regulations adopted by the National Encampment, and embracing only the patriotic duties enjoined by charity, fraternity, and loyalty to flag and country, including a just condemnation of that fell spirit of rebellion which would have destroyed not only the country, but rooted liberty itself out of the land.

Resolved, That in the name of our Comrades scattered throughout this broad land we desire to express our gratitude to the citizens and legislators of those States which have established homes and schools for the maintenance and education of the orphans of our deceased brethren, and that we invoke the blessings of Heaven upon them. And that we earnestly urge upon the citizens and legislators of those States where no such provision has been made, to take immediate steps to fulfil the obligations imposed upon them by the casualties of the late war, and to redeem their pledges made to the brave volunteers, to care for their families during their absence, and, in case of their death, by establishing homes for both orphans and widows, so far as their necessities may demand.

Resolved, That the pledges and recommendations made by conventions and legislative bodies to give preference to soldiers (other things being equal) for appointment to civil avocations and government positions, whereby our disabled

Comrades might serve both the country and themselves at the same time, and be enabled to earn an honest and honorable livelihood, are daily impressed upon our minds by the fact that their claims for labor and position are, in many portions of our country, almost entirely ignored; and that, in the name of our crippled Comrades, we respectfully ask the honorable redemption of those pledges.

Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan was reelected to succeed himself at this Encampment.

At the special National Encampment of October 27th a committee consisting of the Commander-in-Chief and the two Vice-Commanders-in-Chief was appointed to consider the practicability of a project of life insurance, with power to procure a charter from Congress if the plan should be considered feasible.

1870

The fourth annual session of the National Encampment was held in Washington, D. C., May 11, 1870. Commander-in-Chief Logan presided, and again addressed the assembly in his wonderfully eloquent strain.

Extracts from General Logan's Address

We meet to-day, not as relics of a disastrous war, marred and scarred by the enginery of battle, to beg for alms; not as burdens upon the hands of public charity, but as the survivors of a glorious and successful struggle on behalf of liberty and independence for *all* men. We meet in the strength and integrity of our manhood, to take counsel together in aid of measures to promote brotherly love, universal benevolence, stability, and order; we meet to renew our vows of fealty to each other and mankind; we meet as the representatives of the loyal American soldiery, whose organic law is unblemished by any invidious distinctions. We realize that to no particular race or sect belongs the glory of our victories, but that in the Union Army were found Comrades of every clime and creed, who came, as in the days of '76, to offer themselves to do, and die if need be, that Liberty might live and bless their posterity with an equal share in her blessings. No self-constituted victor can say, "Behold me, the conqueror!" But each can claim the honor of answering to his country's roll call when danger was nigh, and in this they have performed the hero's deeds and deserve the hero's reward.

The objects of our Organization seem not to be fully understood by a portion of our fellow citizens. You will, therefore, excuse me if I give a brief sketch of the

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purpose of the Grand Army for the information of those who may be prejudiced against us as a secret order.

The Grand Army of the Republic is not a political organization destined to serve the ends of any political party, as is evident in this, that all political parties are represented in its membership. As men and patriots, many of us mingle in national and local affairs, but in doing so, do not take with us any benefits or provisions of our Order, our only political creed being the love of our country and its hallowed institutions.

We have but three objects obligatory upon us as members of this Order ; namely, to promote the love and practice of fraternity, liberal distributions of charity, and unequivocal loyalty. The founders of the Order were actuated by the fact that when the war ended we had on this continent a million and a half of fighting men, a greater part of whom were our own Comrades, good and true, who were in no haste to lose sight of every trace of the associations of a soldier's life, and let "old acquaintance be forgot." They were flushed with such victories as no soldiers ever were before : hence they needed some resort where they might meet together in social reunion and interchange experiences and opinions, and thereby keep alive the vivid scenes of war, interspersed with incidents full of interest to them, and needed something to check the impulsive, whose very spirit and fire made them such good soldiers. Hence it was conceived that good might spring from these reunions, and that, with certain rules and regulations, they might promote pleasure and security to the independent, and material aid to the dependent, and organize the survivors of the war into an Order that would be perpetual in its existence, and so successful in its good work as to shed additional lustre upon its members.

Ours was the first and only organization to institute an annual commemoration to the departed heroes of the war ; and to us, by common consent, appears to be committed the mournful and pleasing duty of perpetuating it.

It should be the aim of the Grand Army to bring within its fold every honorably discharged soldier and sailor, and, by the constant exercise of the virtues we profess, exert an influence second only to the Church of Christ. Exalting the hopes and aspirations of our own members, we thereby help to give a proper tone to public sentiment, and crush out all opposition to civilization, loyalty, and Christianity, as well as hold our Organization above the criticism of the most fastidious, who, beholding our "good works," will rise up "and call us blessed." We shall need no appeal to call forth the support of all good citizens, who will gladly sustain our lectures and other means of support to our family of sufferers, in whose interest we have solicited public patronage, with liberal responses already.

The tree of liberty, watered by the influences of the Grand Army, will send forth no disloyal shoots to dishonor our flag ; but every branch, as it takes up its burden of life, will have that vital principle of loyalty so engrafted that treason can never destroy it. And when the Encampments that know us now "shall know us no more forever," the feeling of fraternal regard we have nourished will shed its silent tear over our graves ; the charity we have promoted will throw its mantle over our shortcomings ; and the spirit of loyalty we have cultivated will still rally round the flag we loved, to perpetuate our memories.

This Encampment was attended by nineteen Departments and fifty-two Representatives. Twelve Departments were not represented, and seven were delinquent in their reports. The Quartermaster-General's report showed some financial advance during the year, notwithstanding the National Encampment remained in debt \$2,500 for borrowed money.

The important changes in the Rules and Regulations were the permanent establishing of Memorial Day, and providing for the election of Post Officers annually instead of semi-annually.

General Logan was elected Commander-in-Chief for the third time, and the Committee on Resolutions presented the following, which was unanimously adopted :

The Grand Army of the Republic, in National Encampment assembled in the city of Washington, congratulates every Comrade on the successful extension of the triple bond of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty which now so fraternally unites those who rallied beneath the Stars and Stripes when the life of the Nation was assailed, and presents the following matters as entitled to the indorsement of the Order :

1. *Resolved*, As soldiers of the Union Army for the suppression of the late Rebellion, we recognize no character more exalted as a soldier and patriot than the late Major-General George H. Thomas, and that it is with unfeigned sorrow that we, his recent Comrades-in-arms, find ourselves called upon to mourn his demise ; and that in his unsullied character, his preëminent abilities as a commander, and his untarnished patriotism, he has, together with his great services against the enemies of his country and of the Union, left a rich legacy to the world, and a life worthy the emulation of mankind.

2. *Resolved*, That the memory of those who died that the Nation might live should be kept green in the hearts of the people of the United States by the sacred observance of the 30th of May as a day dedicated to the decoration of their graves ; and we trust that the general Government will not fail to exercise, under the war power, its sovereignty over such of those hallowed resting places of our departed Comrades as are in that section of country which they bravely aided in conquering, and not ask permission of the conquered, that the soil thus consecrated may be the nation's forever.

3. *Resolved*, That all Departments and Posts of the Grand Army, and all Comrades in their individual capacities, use their utmost endeavors to promptly secure legislative action in their respective States, in aid of the establishment and maintenance of homes and schools for the support and education of the orphans of Union soldiers and marines, without distinction of birthplace or of race, who were killed or who died in consequence of wounds received, or disease contracted, while in the service of the United States.

4. *Resolved*, That while we recognize the equality of all soldiers who were mus-

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tered in, we respectfully suggest to the officers of the National Asylum for Disabled Soldiers, so liberally endowed by Congress, the propriety of promoting the comfort of the colored veterans entitled to a home, by establishing a branch asylum at the South for their occupation.

5. *Resolved*, That we earnestly request Congress to consider the propriety and justice of passing an act donating suitable tracts of the public lands to those soldiers, sailors, and marines who honorably served in the Army or Navy of the Nation during the late war for the suppression of the rebellion, in accordance with the precedents established in former wars.

1871

The year 1870 had been even more quiet and uneventful than the previous ones. There seemed to be but little energy in the Order, and to all appearances it was drifting into a position where few could discover any of the good results promised or the benefits expected.

The Encampment of 1871 was held in Boston, May 10th.

The address of Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan was, as usual, beautiful in expression and helpful to the wavering perhaps, but the sentiments expressed were a repetition of his former efforts. There were no recommendations advanced to lift the Order out of its state of listlessness, yet it was a masterpiece of literature, that presented the objects of the Organization to the fullest view.

Extracts from General Logan's Address

Another circuit of the seasons brings again the time of the annual meeting of the Representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic. And while earth, seemingly thankful that the bright rays of the vernal sun have warmed her from her wintry sleep, gives forth from her bosom the green blades and gaudy flowers in grateful response, so we should also feel deeply impressed with a spirit of gratitude to the Great Creator and Ruler of the Universe, for the preservation of the lives of so many of the members of our Order, and the prosperity of our Organization. We, when looking over the past twelve months, and beholding the harmony which has prevailed throughout the Order, and the prosperity which has attended it, should give forth, in grateful response to the Guardian Hand which has protected and preserved us, the warmest thanks of our hearts, and should feel, if possible, still more disposed to exhibit by practice to their fullest extent the characteristic virtues of our creed—*Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*: Fraternity to our Comrades, Charity to our fellow-men, and Loyalty to our country.

We have assembled here to-day, not as an organization for the purpose of promoting and fostering selfish ends and personal aims, but as the survivors of a mighty but glorious and successful contest in behalf of liberty and union ; not as a band combined for the purpose of planning and plotting for the benefit of a few, or a restricted class, but in behalf of personal freedom, true independence, and national honor.

We meet in the strength and consciousness of our manhood, with a full knowledge of our freedom and liberty, but with hearts true and loyal to our country and its laws.

We meet to renew our vows to the great principles of our Order—vows of friendship and fealty to each other, which shall continue to link us together in fraternal bonds ; vows of that universal charity which embraces in its grasp mankind wherever found ; vows of devotion and constancy to that Government which we have fought to maintain, and which we believe to be the best that man in his wisdom has devised, where the great principles for which we contend can be best developed and carried out. We meet, also, as the representatives of the great host of loyal American soldiers who stood as the bulwark of safety to the Nation when its life was in jeopardy.

In the hour of peril we asked not for race or sect, but for soldiers, willing to do battle bravely and fearlessly in defence of our Union. To-day we meet, not as the representatives of a race or sect, but of those soldiers who came in answer to their country's call.

As citizens we take part freely in national affairs, each following out his own individual preference and political inclination, untrammelled by any requirements of the Order. The predominance of any political party or bias among the members of any particular locality is, so far as the Order is concerned, purely accidental. So far as devotion to our national unity and to the great principles of universal freedom and benevolence makes us political, thus far we are political, and no farther.

The successful close of the war sent back into civil life more than a million of soldiers, many of whom for years had dwelt in the tented field, with armor on, and who, as comrades in the privations and hardships of the soldier's life, could not easily forget its associations. The natural yearning of the soldier's heart for an occasional reunion with his comrades suggested the idea of the Order to its founders. It was, therefore, the natural outgrowth of the times and circumstances, and not wholly an original idea conceived in any one mind. With a desire to keep alive these associations, and by interchange of experience and opinions to keep fresh before the mind the vivid scenes of the war, and incidents of the soldier's life in camp, was the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic conceived and carried into effect.

We must remember that great ends are accomplished, not by spasmodic and fitful exertions, but by steady, systematic, and persevering movements. This was the spirit that nerved us during the fiery ordeal of the late war, and crowned our arms with victory.

Let us, then, strictly conform to our Rules and Regulations, and, systematic as

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an army when marching to the field of battle, let us, like good and faithful soldiers, press forward in the great work of promoting and extending the cardinal virtues of our creed—Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty—and the tree of liberty, fostered by the genial influence of the Grand Army of the Republic, will send forth its inspiration to the utmost extremity of our beloved country, until every heart shall again be warmed by the vital principles of loyalty, and every remnant of treason be driven from our land.

Such is our mission, and such our bright anticipations; and if true to our faith and active in our efforts, when we have met together for the last time, and have sounded our last reveille, other tongues and other voices will bless the name and work of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The action of this Encampment in abolishing the grade system was of great benefit to the Order, if it was not the means of saving its life. The Committee on Rules, Regulations, and Ritual (it seems as though three R's would crop out every now and then), in making its report to strike out of the Ritual all reference to grades, presented a revised edition, which was adopted at the same time that the grades were abolished, and put into effect a rule that Comrades must be dropped from membership if their dues to their Posts should become one year in arrears.

As should have been expected, such radical changes as the two mentioned had the effect of stagnation for a short time. Many members had been trimmed out of the Order who had been members in name only, and the changing from one system of membership to another required time—time to recover from wonder and surprise, and time to rearrange the machinery and implements of service.

The membership did not increase during the year, and it is remarkable that it did not seriously diminish for the time being, there were so many indifferent and delinquent members.

The condition became almost immediately more healthful. Those joining understood that they would be expected to be supporting members at least, if not active; and those remaining realized that the dead wood would not be allowed to accumulate.

The Resolutions adopted by this Encampment seemed to have been rather self-congratulatory, but lacking in enthusiasm.

Resolutions

The Grand Army of the Republic, assembled in National Encampment at Boston, congratulates all Comrades upon the rapidly increasing power and strength of the Order, and commends to them the action taken at this session, as being calculated to promote the cardinal principles of this Association.

1. *Resolved*, That the Grand Army of the Republic is in no sense whatever a political or partisan organization; and any Comrade who endeavors to use the Order as a political engine, for the purpose of gratifying any selfish political ambition, is recreant to his duty to his Comrades.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of each and every Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic to urge and do all in his power to promote such legislation, both from the several State and National legislative bodies, as will secure ample provision for the support and education of the children of those soldiers, sailors, and marines who were killed or died of disease contracted while in the service of the United States, battling for the integrity of the Union; and to procure such legislation as shall be necessary for the care, protection, and preservation of the graves of our dead Comrades, in the different National cemeteries.

The reports of Staff Officers showed that the Organization was practically out of debt, and, all things considered, on a more satisfactory and substantial basis.

Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside, of Rhode Island, was elected Commander-in-Chief, which he accepted, and was duly installed.

1871-1872

At the very outset of his administration Commander-in-Chief Burnside (whether by accident or as the result of mature deliberation it would now be difficult to determine) broke away from the previous custom in making appointments for his personal staff. Regardless, apparently, of geographical lines, the appointments were confined to Eastern Comrades:

Adjutant-General.	WILLIAM CUTTING.	New York.
Assistant Adjutant-General.	ROSWELL MILLER.	New York.
Quartermaster-General.	CORNELIUS G. ATTWOOD.	Massachusetts.
Judge-Advocate-General.	WILLIAM W. DOUGLAS.	Rhode Island.
Inspector-General.	ROBERT B. BEATH.	Pennsylvania.



A. Burnside

FOURTH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED SEPTEMBER 13, 1881

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And the work of the year of their administration gave abundant evidence of the sagacity of the selection.

This administration year was one of marked progress, the result of efficient leaders and of the value of simplicity in machinery and a purity of purpose properly and definitely announced. The Commander-in-Chief had as his coöperators two remarkably efficient officers, who realized the wonderful possibilities of the Organization and who earnestly set about their work with all the possibilities in view. Senior Vice-Commander Wagner and Inspector-General Beath, both of whom afterwards were elected to the office of Commander-in-Chief, were indefatigable in their efforts for the substantial progress of the Order, and have for the succeeding twenty-nine years been as earnest and faithful. These two Comrades have no equals in the Grand Army on the plane of labor bestowed for the benefit of it.

Because of the change by eradicating the grade system the work of the Adjutant-General's office was greatly increased, and it was not unfortunate that Adjutant-General Cutting was forced to retire (because his business interests would not permit of his devoting any time to the office) in favor of Roswell Miller, whose peculiar fitness was made evident by the system and success of the reorganization of his department. He served for two years without pay, as did all the staff of the Commander-in-Chief.

The Quartermaster-General was also proficient and invaluable in his department, bringing his accounts to the Encampment at the close of his term in 1872, showing a net credit balance, with all debts and bills paid, of over \$4,000.

During the year the Commander-in-Chief was absent in Europe for several months, and the duties of his office fell upon Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Wagner, to whom General Burnside owed much of the success of the first year of his administration, and which he acknowledged in his address to the National Encampment, held May 8, 1872, at Cleveland, Ohio.

During the care of the office by General Wagner the secret

work of the Order was divulged by some means or another, making it necessary to change the work and create a new cipher. His first order, however, was a call for relief for suffering Comrades made destitute by the great fire in Chicago in September, 1871.

At the National Encampment at Cleveland there were but seventy-five Officers and Representatives present, representing sixteen Departments.

The Chaplain-in-Chief reported that Department Commander Rhodes, of Rhode Island, had invited the clergy of that Department to preach sermons on Sunday previous to Memorial Day, commemorative of the Comrades for whom Memorial Day had been instituted, and the Commander-in-Chief advocated in strong terms the adoption of such a plan by all the Departments. The idea was indorsed by the National Encampment and was made part of the General Order for Memorial Day.

The Rules and Regulations were amended so that all Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past Vice-Commanders-in-Chief remaining in good standing in the Order would be members of the National Encampment, and all Past Department Commanders in good standing would be members of their respective Departments.

General Burnside was reëlected Commander-in-Chief.

The member of the Council of Administration elected to represent the Department of New York was A. P. Ketchum.*

1873

The seventh annual National Encampment was held May 14, 1873, at New Haven, Conn., at which only sixteen Departments were represented, and forty-eight Representatives present.

Commander-in-Chief Burnside presided, making a short and not very enthusiastic address, though expressing his satisfaction that the conduct of the Grand Army of the Republic through

*A. P. Ketchum joined Lafayette Post, January 17, 1890.

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the exciting political campaign had fully demonstrated its non-partisan principles.

One encouraging feature of the Adjutant-General's report was the statement that of the nineteen Departments, which included Illinois, the birthplace of the Order, and Indiana and Michigan, reported in 1871 as being disorganized, eleven had been revived, and were again reporting regularly. The Department of Indiana, however, remained in disorder.

A form of "Burial Service" presented by the Department of Massachusetts was received, and Assistant Adjutant-Generals of Departments were made members of the National Encampment. The office of Department Chief Mustering Officer was created, and the appointment placed in the hands of the Commanders of Departments.

An attempt to abolish the plan of secrecy was made, also to establish an association as an auxiliary for the wives of members of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be called the Clara Barton Degree, but it failed in both instances.

Official Badges

An amendment to the Rules, providing for a badge for officers of the Association, was adopted upon recommendation of a committee, who reported as follows :

The official badge to consist of a miniature strap and *plain* ribbon, to which shall be pendent the bronze star of the membership badge ; that this strap be one-half inch in length, one-half inch in width, enamelled, with a border one-sixteenth of an inch in width, of gold or gilt, and on it the insignia of official position in the Grand Army of the Republic, making use of the familiar star, eagle, leaf, and bar of the old service, substantially as determined and recommended for official badges by the National Council of Administration, and announced in Circular No. 6, Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic, January 4, 1869 ; except that for Aides-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief be substituted a silver eagle, and for Aides-de-Camp to Department Commanders, a silver leaf ; for the words "Grand Commander" be read "Department Commander" ; that the field in enamel be, for National and Department Officers, black ; for Post Officers, dark blue.

That the ribbon be one and one-half inches in length in the clear, and one and one-fourth inches in width ; and in color, for National Officers, buff ; for Department Officers, red ; and for Post Officers, light blue.

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That this badge be worn conspicuously on the left breast of the coat.

That to distinguish the different Departments, a miniature shield in gold or gilt, with the coat of arms of the State, may be worn pendent to the strap.

The insignia of rank upon the strap to be :

For Commander-in-Chief, four silver stars.

For Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, three silver stars.

For Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief and Department Commanders, two silver stars.

For the official staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Surgeon-General, provisional Department Commanders, Senior Vice Department Commanders, one silver star.

For Junior Vice Department Commanders, one gilt star.

For the official staff of the Department Commander, Medical Directors, Aides-de-Camp, Assistant Adjutant-General to the Commander-in-Chief, Assistant Inspectors-General, and Post Commanders, silver eagle.

For Senior Vice Post Commanders, Assistant Inspectors-General, and Aides-de-Camp to Department Commanders, silver leaf.

For Junior Vice Post Commanders, Assistant Inspectors, Post Surgeons, and Post Adjutants, gilt leaf.

For members of Council of Administration, silver letter "C."

For Chaplain-in-Chief, silver star and cross.

For Department Chaplain, large silver cross.

For Post Chaplains, small silver cross.

For Post Officer of the Day, two gilt bars.

For Post Quartermaster, one gilt bar.

Officers of the Guard, vacant field.

The report of the Committee on Rules, Regulations, and Ritual recommended the form of "Burial Service" which was offered by the Department of Massachusetts, and the Encampment adopted the report.

Burial Service

COMMANDER takes position at head of coffin.

CHAPLAIN takes position at foot of coffin.

OFFICERS and PAST COMMANDERS in rear of Commander.

POST in rear of Chaplain.

COLORS to front.

COMMANDER.—Assembled to pay our last tribute of respect to this dead soldier [or sailor] of our Republic, let us unite in prayer. The Chaplain will invoke the Divine blessing.

PRAYER BY CHAPLAIN.—God of battles! Father of all! amid these monuments of the dead we seek Thee with whom there is no death. Open every eye to

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behold Him who changed the night of death into morning. In the depths of our hearts we would hear the celestial word, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall live." As Comrade after Comrade departs, and we march on with ranks broken, help us to be faithful unto Thee and to each other. We beseech Thee, look in mercy on the widows and children of deceased Comrades, and with Thine own tenderness console and comfort those bereaved by this event which calls us here. Give them "the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Heavenly Father! bless and save our country with the freedom and peace of righteousness, and through Thy great mercy, a Saviour's grace, and Thy Holy Spirit's favor, may we all meet at last in joy before Thy throne in heaven. And to Thy great name shall be praise for ever and ever.

ALL COMRADES.—Amen!

[If a choir be present, an appropriate hymn will now be sung.]

[The Commander may then speak as follows, or, if he elects, extemporize:]

COMMANDER.—One by one, as the years roll on, we are called together to fulfil these last sad duties of respect to our Comrades of the war. The present, full of the cares and pleasures of civil life, fades away, and we look back to the time when, shoulder to shoulder on bloody battle-fields, or around the guns of our men-of-war, we fought for our dear old flag. We may indulge the hope that the spirit with which, on land and sea, hardship, privation, dangers, were encountered by our dead heroes—a spirit uncomplaining, nobly, manfully obedient to the behest of duty, whereby to-day our homes are secure, and our loved ones rest in peace under the ægis of the flag, will prove a glorious incentive to the youth who, in the ages to come, may be called to uphold the destinies of our country. As the years roll on, we, too, shall have fought our battles through, and be laid to rest, our souls following the long column to the realms above, as grim death, hour by hour, shall mark its victim. Let us so live that when that time shall come, those we leave behind may say above our graves, "Here lies the body of a true-hearted, brave, and earnest defender of the Republic."

FIRST COMRADE (*laying a wreath of evergreen or flowers upon the coffin*).—In behalf of the Post, I give this tribute, a symbol of an undying love for Comrades of the war.

SECOND COMRADE (*laying a rose or flower upon the coffin*).—Symbol of purity, we offer at this lowly grave a rose. May future generations emulate the unselfish devotion of even the lowliest of our heroes.

THIRD COMRADE (*laying a laurel leaf upon the coffin*).—Last token of affection from Comrades-in-arms, we crown these remains with a symbol of victory.

CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS.—The march of another Comrade is over, and he lies down after it in the house appointed for all the living. Thus summoned, this open grave reminds us of the frailty of human life and the tenure by which we hold our own. "In such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."

It seems well we should leave our Comrade to rest where over him will

bend the arching sky, as it did in great love when he pitched his tent, or lay down, weary and footsore, by the way or on the battle-field, for an hour's sleep. [As we leave our Comrade to rest, no longer to hear the sound of the waves, or to float upon the bosom of the deep; no longer to sail beneath peaceful skies, or to be driven before the angry storm; may he find welcome in that land where there is no more sea.*] As he was then, so he is still—in the hands of the Heavenly Father. “God giveth His beloved sleep.”

As we lay our Comrade down to rest, let us cherish his virtues and learn to imitate them. Reminded forcibly, by the vacant place so lately filled by him, that our ranks are thinning, let each one be so loyal to every virtue, so true to every friendship, so faithful in our remaining marches, that we shall be ready to fall out to take our places at the great review hereafter, not with doubt, but in faith that the merciful Captain of our salvation will call us to that fraternity which, on earth and in heaven, remains unbroken. (*A pause for a moment.*) Jesus saith, “Thy brother shall rise again. I am the Resurrection and the Life.” (*The body is deposited in the grave or tomb.*) Behold, the silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken: we commit the body to the grave, where dust shall return to the earth, and the spirit to God who gave it. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the resurrection and the life to come through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER.

Charles Devens, Jr., of Massachusetts, was elected Commander-in-Chief.

1874

The eighth annual National Encampment was held May 13, 1874, at Harrisburg, Pa., at which fifteen Departments were represented by fifty-one Department Officers and Delegates.

The Adjutant-General reported a serious loss to the Organization in the destruction of books and records by fire on Memorial Day, May 30, 1873, and that the gain to the Order had been 9,004, while the loss had been 9,465—a net loss in membership of 461. The Quartermaster-General reported receipts for the year \$6,736.22; expenditures, \$3,514.70; leaving a balance in cash on hand, \$3,221.52, with net assets over liabilities of \$4,117.45.

A committee for the purpose recommended the following as a badge for Past Officers, which was unanimously adopted:

* To be used if the deceased Comrade had been a sailor.



Chas Deems

FIFTH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED JANUARY 7, 1891

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Past Officers in the Grand Army of the Republic may wear the strap of the official badge proper for the highest position held by them in the Grand Army, with a clasp upon the ribbon proper for such position, beneath the bronze eagle of the membership badge, to which the whole shall be pendent.

The most noteworthy amendments to the Rules and Regulations adopted by this Encampment were :

First. That Posts would be permitted to dispense with a part of their opening exercises.

Second. That Past Department Commanders, as long as they remained in good standing in their Posts, should be members of the National Encampment.

Third. That Departments might adopt a uniform for their own members, and, should no uniform be adopted, Posts might adopt one to their taste.

Resolutions were adopted, urging Congress to increase pensions for wounded and disabled soldiers and sailors, especially to those disabled ; also to provide compensation for ex-army nurses who had served in the field during the Civil War.

These resolutions had no effect on Congress, however, though they had been presented and urged by the Commander-in-Chief.

In General Orders, No. 4, a committee was appointed to draft a Memorial Service for the use of Posts, as a tribute to their deceased Comrades, which was duly prepared, and in General Orders, No. 7, was approved.

"He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."

A Memorial Service to be Used in the Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Grateful and Devout Commemoration of Deceased Comrades

Memorial Service

[The Post will open without ceremony, the officers in uniform, and sentinels properly stationed ; the friends and relatives of the deceased, present by invitation, seated in the body of the hall. The altar will be covered with the national flag, draped black and white, and ornamented with flowers ; a chair (or chairs, according to the number of deceased Comrades), suitably draped, will be placed between the Post Commander's chair and the altar. The person appointed to deliver the address will be seated on the right of the Commander. A Comrade will be detailed as drummer.

Lafayette Post, No. 140.

The exercises will begin with a voluntary or chant, and proceed as follows:]

POST COMMANDER.—Adjutant, for what purpose is this meeting called?

ADJUTANT.—To pay our tribute of respect to the memory of our late Comrade [or Comrades] ———.

POST COMMANDER.—Have you a record of his [their] service in the cause of our country, and in the Grand Army of the Republic?

ADJUTANT.—Commander, I have.

COMMANDER.—You will read it.

ADJUTANT.———— was born date in town of ———, State of ———; enlisted in Co. ——— Regiment ——— Volunteers, on the ——— day of ——— 186 ; held the office [or offices] of ——— ———, and was discharged ———, 186 . He joined ——— Post, No. ———, Department of ———; held the office [or offices] of ———, and died ———, aged ——— years.

[The drummer will beat three rolls upon a muffled drum immediately after the reading of each record.]

COMMANDER.—The record is an honorable one, and as the memory of all faithful soldiers of the Republic should be cherished and their record preserved, I direct that it be placed in the archives of the Post for future reference.

CHAPLAIN.—What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? If a man die, shall he live again?

COMRADES.—Jesus Christ said, I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And he that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.

CHAPLAIN.—Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.

COMRADES.—Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors.

CHAPLAIN.—They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more.

COMRADES.—Neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

CHAPLAIN.—For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and lead them unto living fountains of water.

COMRADES.—And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

CHAPLAIN.—There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain.

COMRADES.—For the former things have passed away.

[Then shall follow a hymn or chant by the choir. The Comrades shall then form a square, enclosing the altar, the officers in front, the Chaplain at the altar.]

PRAYER.—By the Chaplain, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert.

CHANT.—By the choir.

[The Comrades will return to their places.]

READING OF SCRIPTURES.

HYMN.

ADDRESS.

DOXOLOGY.

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[After which the Post shall be closed as follows:]

COMMANDER.—Senior Vice-Commander, how should all men live?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER.—With trust in God, and in love for one another.

COMMANDER.—Junior Vice-Commander, how should Comrades of the Grand Army live?

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER.—Having on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to withstand in the evil day.

COMMANDER.—The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

COMRADES.—We thank God, who gave us the victory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

COMMANDER.—May the Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, keep us by His gracious presence amid the conflicts of our mortal life, and at last receive us into everlasting peace.

COMRADES.—Amen.

COMMANDER.—I now declare this Post closed.

At the close of this Encampment Charles Devens, Jr., was reelected Commander-in-Chief.

1875

The ninth annual National Encampment was held in Chicago, May 12, 1875. There were fourteen Departments, represented by seventy-eight Representatives.

Under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief Devens the Order had advanced considerably in comparison with former years. The gain in membership had been 9,094, and the loss 8,306, leaving a net gain of 788 members.

The receipts by the Quartermaster-General were \$947.88 in excess of the expenditures, and the assets at the close of the year, in cash and supplies, were \$4,913.17.

The total amount expended for relief, as reported by the several Departments, was about \$75,000.

The progress of the Order for nearly ten years had been surprisingly slow in comparison with the objects it aimed to achieve. This can only be accounted for by reason of its true purposes being misunderstood or imperfectly comprehended. There was a general feeling throughout the land that because of the secret feature there might be an underlying principle of

danger. A large organization with secret manipulation and hidden motives was considered uncertain; possibly mischievous.

The annual address before the National Encampment, delivered by Commander-in-Chief Devens, was a relief to many unbelievers, and aided greatly in gaining the confidence of many veterans who were still standing aloof, unwilling to be counted in the membership, and it enlightened the public as well.

Address of the Commander-in-Chief

In some of its forms, and in the modes in which it enables its members to recognize each other, the Grand Army of the Republic is a secret organization. But secrecy is limited to these; in all its real purposes and objects it has no concealments or reservations, nothing it is not ready to spread before the world fully and frankly. It seeks no objects that are not sought by every true man who endeavored, whether in the field or out, to do what he could for the preservation of the Union so lately imperilled, and who is ready now to honor and cherish those by whose efforts it was saved.

It has no system of politics in which all cannot unite, whatever other differences they may have as to men or measures, who agree that what was done to maintain the Government was demanded by the highest considerations of patriotism and duty. Did it have any political objects in a narrow or individual sense; was it intended to elevate this man or party to power and place, or to prevent another from obtaining it, a proper and deep distrust would and ought to prevail in reference to it. No body of citizens, even if they have been soldiers, can be allowed to separate themselves in their political relations from the great body of their fellow-citizens, and form a distinct class, without just ground of objection and complaint. Nor is it our desire to keep alive any ill feeling which has been engendered during the War of the Rebellion. The object of every war that can be justifiably waged is that thereby peace may be secured; and those who forced upon us, by insulting our flag, by attacking our army, by battering down our fortresses, this strange and unnatural conflict were our countrymen.

Let the necessary and logical results of our triumph be preserved inviolate, alike in the union of these States, and in liberty to every man who treads their soil, and the passions and bitterness of the conflict should be allowed to die. But we cannot and we ought not to allow the memory of those by whom these results have been achieved to sink into oblivion; justice to their cause, gratitude for their services, demand that we at least should claim for them the place to which they are rightfully entitled among the heroes and martyrs of liberty.

In two instances, that of the suffering by the fire at Oshkosh, Wis., during the last summer, and that of the suffering occasioned by the locust plague in Minnesota, I have thought proper, by circular, to call the attention of the Order to the condition of Comrades in those Departments.

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The recommendations of the last National Encampment in reference to the passage of the bills for increase of pensions, and for certain compensation to female nurses, were forwarded, immediately after the adjournment, to Congress, and were by me, from time to time, enforced by conversations and correspondence; but I regret that I cannot report any favorable result.

Even if there should be no general increase of pensions, I am clearly of opinion that there should be an increase to those who suffered the loss of a leg or arm, and that it is our duty to respectfully urge this upon the attention of the National Legislature.

The carefully prepared report of the Surgeon-General will afford you many interesting facts as to the number and kind of disabilities existing among our numbers.

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In conclusion, Comrades, as the duties which you have for the past two years imposed upon me draw to a close, you will do me, I know, the justice to think that I have done my utmost for the furtherance of the objects which we all have at heart. I am fully rewarded by the belief, which a careful examination and comparison will justify, that the condition of the Organization has improved both numerically and financially during the past two years, and that its spirit and patriotism have not diminished. The relations which I have held towards you have been most agreeable; you have always generously sustained me; and if there is regret that the time has now arrived when we must sever them, I recognize that, as I take my place again as a Comrade in the ranks of the Order, they will not be less pleasant and satisfactory in that changed position.

There were many propositions to change the Rules and Regulations, but some were wisely discountenanced and defeated, to wit:

That when Memorial Day occurs on Sunday, that day should be observed.

To require the election of all Department Officers except the Assistant Adjutant-General.

That Commanders-in-Chief and Vice-Commanders-in-Chief shall not be eligible to reëlection.

That Past Department Commanders and appointed officers should not be entitled to vote as such in Department Encampments.

To constitute Past Post Commanders members of Department Encampments.

John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, was elected Commander-in-Chief.

1876

The tenth annual National Encampment was held at Philadelphia, Pa., June 30, 1876.

Encouraged by the growth of the previous year, and inspired further by the election of General Hartranft to be Commander-in-Chief, who was so prominently and favorably recognized as an efficient leader, the attendance at the Encampment at this time was marked by a still further increase in numbers. Twenty-two Departments were represented, a gain of more than fifty per cent. over the preceding year, and the total number of Representatives present was an even hundred, or twenty-five per cent. more than the year before.

This occasion was marked by an enthusiasm not hitherto approached, and was the beginning of the festival occasions, which grew from year to year until they became the most noted public gatherings and demonstrations of the American continent.

Post No. 2, of Philadelphia, at this time was the most celebrated Post in the Order. Its hall or headquarters was renowned for its collection of war relics and curiosities, and the ceremonies of the Grand Army were performed with particular exactitude and military display.

The National Encampment of this year was held within the beautiful home of this Post, whose rooms were handsomely decorated and tastefully arranged for the occasion.

The evening before the opening of the Encampment was occupied by the Representatives and National Officers in an attendance upon the meeting of Post 2, to observe the muster-in ceremonies, which was a revelation to nearly all the witnesses.

After the business of the Encampment was closed the festivities were continued. On the morning of July 1st a delightful drive from Headquarters to Fairmount Park brought the members of the National Encampment to Belmont Mansion, where a superb breakfast was served in the latest style, at which the Commander-in-Chief presided and welcomed to the patriotic



J. B. Hartranft

SIXTH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED OCTOBER 17, 1889

Department of New York, G. A. R.

city the Representatives of the saviors of the Nation. Toasts were given and responded to, and the reading of poems and recitations were in the order of exercises.

On July 3d the Grand Army paraded. Nearly all the Posts of Pennsylvania were represented; Massachusetts was in evidence with three of her largest Posts; and New York was present, with Department Commander James Tanner in command, escorted by Koltcs Post, No. 32, of New York City. July 5th was devoted to a reunion at Schuetzen Park, when eight to ten thousand persons were present. This closed the festivities of the most enjoyable and notable National Encampment that had taken place since the beginning of the annual assemblies.

The address of General Hartranft is notable for its simplicity and earnestness.

Address of Commander-in-Chief John F. Hartranft

As the Representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic, you have assembled here to-day in accordance with an annual custom, to deliberate and take counsel with each other upon all matters of interest to our loved Order which demand attention. The tender twig which for years past required so much nourishment and care, and which so often bent to the storms of prejudice and adverse criticism, has stretched its roots so widely and deeply, and has become so firm and strong, that it no longer needs that ceaseless watchfulness exercised by former Commanders to protect it from public opinion without or weakness from within. The wisdom of the Comrades composing the National Encampments in the past has destroyed the growth of all disturbing elements which would have retarded the development or drawn their sustenance from the life or prosperity of our Order; and, thanks to their foresight, our Organization is no longer subject to the suspicion that we are united for selfish or party purposes, and we are free to perform the sacred duties our companionship imposes upon us, without stopping to battle with misconception and falsehood.

Surely the fraternity of those who stood side by side in the many bloody conflicts of the late war is a natural tie that needs not be cemented with any binding obligation; and is it strange that from this feeling of fraternity there should spring a sentiment of charity for the sufferings of those who had passed through the fearful ordeal of war, or had left impoverished and helpless families behind them? And is it not logical, if we cherish a recollection of that war, and nourish a feeling of kindness for those whom its casualties have, in part or in whole, deprived of support, that we should nurse with a fervent and holy regard the spirit of patriotism or loyalty that prompted us to incur all the terrible chances of battle to save the integrity of the Union and preserve the flag of our choice?

These three simple principles are the articles of our Grand Army creed—the cultivation of a habit of fraternity among Comrades, the exercise of a daily charity to the maimed and helpless, and the constant renewal of our allegiance to the Government for which we perilled so much ; and they meantly asperse us who impute other than these motives to our actions as Grand Army Comrades.

Despite the hard times and the general prostration of business and industry, the prosperity of the Order has been marked and encouraging, and the steady increase in our numbers gives promise of large accessions to our ranks so soon as the distrust that now pervades all classes of our people is destroyed, and money is released once more for legitimate enterprise. Our growth has not only been in numbers, but in Posts and Departments ; and we may congratulate ourselves that our Organization is extending its benefits and usefulness into every corner of the land.

When you visit the great Exposition of art and industry now open in this city, you will be gratified to see the substantial contributions made by our Nation to the comfort, luxury, and progress of humanity ; and, as you witness this exhibition, I feel assured you will experience no greater pleasure than in the thought that, through your efforts in part, our great Nation was preserved in its integrity for a future of usefulness, honor, and glory, and with the natural and just pride that comes of this thought, let there go apace a resolution to do your share towards effecting a true reconciliation between the sections of our common country, and to advance every effort that will unite with you our late foes in promoting the prosperity of our country and enlarging the scope and purpose of our free institutions.

At this Encampment attention was called to the fact that the badges of the Order had not been made according to the provisions of the Rules and Regulations, and a temporary arrangement had been made with the United States Mint for their manufacture. The Committee on Officers' Reports recommended :

That the entire matter of badges be referred to a special committee of five, to be appointed by the new Commander-in-Chief, with full powers to make the best possible contract, with sufficient guarantee for the manufacture of badges of the present *form, size, and design*, to be made, as now required, of bronze cannon captured during the Rebellion.

General Hartranft was reelected Commander-in-Chief.

1877

The eleventh annual National Encampment was held at Providence, R. I., June 26, 1877.

Only twelve Departments were represented at this Encamp-

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ment, instead of twenty-two on the previous occasion, though the number of Representatives present was ninety-six—about equal to the last representation in numbers.

The growth of membership was small indeed—only an increase of 125.

Commander-in-Chief Hartranft, in his address, said :

At the close of another year we meet to review the past and take counsel for the future. An organization which draws its members from one generation must soon pass away. The graves we decorated this year were more than we decorated before, but the living have closed the gaps in our ranks, and the Grand Army still presents an unbroken front to its silent foe. Under that enemy's fire our line will melt away, and our reserves must, in time, be exhausted. But that time has not yet come; the muster-roll is still full. Rising from the mists of battle, the sun of the Order still climbs to the zenith, and its splendor is undiminished. The clouds of doubt and distrust have been dispelled, and many who hesitated to join us, from suspicion of our motives, or fears of being misunderstood, now swell the ranks of good fellowship, and find delight in the revival of old associations, and comfort in the companionship and support of old Comrades.

One fact established by the war is inspiring to every lover of free institutions. It proved that our Nation could rely upon the patriotism and gallantry of its people. It solved the problem of a strong free government, abolished standing armies except as a police, and returned to the old days of a nation in arms without falling into anarchy on the one hand, or despotism on the other.

It was also taken for granted that the discipline of the camp unfitted the individual for peaceful life. If arms were our profession, there might be some ground for such a belief. But war was an incident of our careers; we were soldiers as part of our duty as citizens. I do not think a man is a worse citizen for having been a good soldier. On the contrary, I think he is the better for it. The promptness with which our people took up arms, their courage and fidelity in the field, the ease and safety with which they were disbanded, and the alacrity with which they resumed their civil pursuits have often been referred to with surprise and admiration. But there is another fact not the less admirable and surprising. The soldiers of the South, who know the cost of disloyalty and the futility of their principles, have also been the better citizens of that section. They have gone to work with accustomed energy and fidelity, having learned to respect the convictions of others and patiently to submit to the will of the majority. On the other hand, the most pestilent classes of the South have been the non-combatants. The men of war promptly moulded their swords into pruning hooks, and their spears into ploughshares; but the professed men of peace fanned the embers of hate and have labored to keep alive the passions and prejudices of the past. It is evident that the olive branch in the South has been twined round the swords that were surrendered at Appomattox and Greensboro.

What this generation fought for and secured may be gradually lost by the negli-

gence, self-interest, and the indifference of succeeding generations. Another generation may have to fight over the same ground and for the same objects; but all will not be lost. They will win the easier because it has been once won.

Nevertheless, Comrades, though this war was fought upon so plain an issue, it was fought in faith, in hope, and in charity. We entered the contest with a loyal faith in the principles and institutions established by our fathers; we fought for four years, animated and sustained by the hopes of victory, and we laid down the sword in the hour of triumph "with malice toward none and charity for all." Upon that platform we still stand, loyal to our Nation, hopeful of its future, and charitable to its foes. On the latter we would impose no restrictions which freemen ought not to endure, or ask any submission which freemen ought not to give; we simply ask that they give up the pistol and the lash, concede free speech, a free press, and free votes, and submit to the decision of the ballot. More than these we do not ask, and the contest will go on, in peace or war, until they are secured of all men.

Our Organization, then, is founded upon loyalty to the country. Beyond that it has no political significance. Beyond that it is an association of men who have participated in the same victories and defeats, who have the same convictions and hopes, common memories, and mutual sympathies. It is intended to perpetuate old friendships, to revive old memories, and for the mutual support and assistance of old Comrades.

The address of Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. Joseph F. Lovering was a pattern of eloquence. He said in part:

So far as the faith and morals of the Grand Army of the Republic are concerned, I have this to say:

Its faith has its religion, and its religion has the devout obedience of every worthy member of our Order. I do not refer to any religion, sectarian or universal, liberal or conservative, Christian or pagan, as such. Whatever disputes there may be outside of our Organization concerning them do not affect us. Religion means "bond." The highest religion casts out all spirit of fear and makes its "bond" that of love. Our religion, within the terms of our Organization, claims that highest bond. It is permeated, it is saturated, with the spirit of that love. That love is love of country. That religion is the spirit of patriotism. Its altars are the graves of the unforgotten and heroic. Its symbol is the flag of our Union. Its priests are all those within its organization who confess to this soldierly creed:

I believe in a fraternity which joins in indissoluble union, justice and right.

I believe in a charity that, while merciful to a conquered foe, does not stultify itself by surrendering the fruits of victory; that never forgets the brightness of that cause which has been made illustrious by the heroic sacrifices of those whose graves should be the shrines of the Nation's reverence.

I believe in loyalty that acknowledges one country and one flag; that makes American citizenship honorable everywhere; that calls rebellion a crime, and the penalty of treason, death.

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I believe that, in fraternity and charity, we should stand shoulder to shoulder, willing, at all hazard of favor or fame, to defend the Grand Army of the Republic as the standard bearer of the nation's loyalty.

As I can commend the faith of the Grand Army of the Republic, so I can respect its morals. The highest expression of morals is virtue, and the original significance of virtue is manliness. As I come in contact with those now living, who make our Order so honorable; as I recall those now dead, whose memories are resplendent with glory, there can be no question in my mind as to the manliness which belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic.

It is a manliness inherited from those who have recruited the Grand Army of the Immortals; it is a manliness which to-day beats in hearts which have known no throb but that of courage, which looks out from eyes that have been unscarred by any wrath of war, that can be read upon the flesh in letters made by shot, or shell, or sabre stroke—scars that are the insignia of valor—a manliness that gives, to every man of our membership, however humble, permission to wear upon his breast the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic.

During this Encampment it was remembered that General Grant would dine with Queen Victoria, and a cablegram was despatched to him, to which he replied:

GENERAL HARTRANFT,

Commander G. A. R.

Conveyed your message to the Queen. Thank my old Comrades.

GRANT.

This Encampment was not noted for any particular line of business, though in its fraternal sense it was successful and enjoyable.

The Commander-in-Chief was escorted to Providence by the two noted Posts of Philadelphia, 2 and 5, and was received in New York by Department Commander James Tanner and Posts of that city.

The Encampment was held in the Light Infantry Armory at Providence, where it had been welcomed by Mayor Doyle and other municipal officers, who afterward entertained the Representatives on board the steamer "Rhode Island" with a bountiful collation during a sail of several hours on the river and bay.

One of the pleasant days which will never be forgotten by those present at this Encampment was occupied with a clam-

bake at Rocky Point, which was partaken of by at least 20,000 people. President Hayes and members of his Cabinet were special guests, with the officers and delegates of the Grand Army. Prescott Post, No. 1, entertained with a mammoth and successful Campfire, during which General Hartranft received from Post 2, of Philadelphia, a handsome souvenir of the occasion, and Prescott Post received from Post 2 a beautiful ballot-box in the form of a miniature cannon.

The city of Providence on one of the days gave the visitors to the Encampment a banquet at which notable persons were present from many States, among whom was Bayard Taylor and the Rev. J. F. Behrends, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

A feature of this Encampment seems odd in the present day, in the light of the improved nature of holding Post Encampments. A night session was held, the main purpose of which was to exemplify the unwritten and ritual work of the Order. The ceremonies were conducted by the officers and members of the then most famous Post 2, of Philadelphia.

At the election, John C. Robinson, of New York, was elected Commander-in-Chief.

1878

The twelfth annual session of the National Encampment met in Springfield, Mass., June 4, 1878. There were fourteen Departments represented, and eighty-five Officers and Delegates.

Commander-in-Chief Robinson, in his address, said :

The annual reports show that the Order is in as healthy and flourishing a condition as can reasonably be expected. While in some sections of the country Comrades have been inactive and wanting in energy, and there has been a falling off, in others there has been renewed life and spirit, a disposition to labor earnestly in the cause, followed naturally by an increase of membership and a determination to make the Grand Army, as it should be, a power in the land, by enrolling in its ranks every worthy, honorably discharged soldier and sailor who served in the Army and Navy of the United States during the war for the preservation of the Union.

At no time since its organization has the Grand Army of the Republic occupied so high and proud a position as to-day. The charge, so long and persistently made, of its being a political organization is no longer heard. We have outlived prejudice



Mr. C. Potvin.

SEVENTH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED FEBRUARY 18, 1897

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and overcome opposition. People have seen our good works and become satisfied that we are connected with no party or sect ; that we are what we profess to be, a fraternal, charitable, and loyal association ; that among the men who have faced a common danger, toiled together on the long and weary march, drank from the same canteen, bivouacked under the same blanket, stood shoulder to shoulder in the shock of battle, there exists a fraternal feeling that can be found nowhere else ; that our charity is not confined, but extends to all our former companions in arms, and to all widows and orphans of those who wore the blue ; that our loyalty consists in a determination to preserve the Union of the States, and to uphold the flag of our country as the emblem of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

During the present session of Congress a bill has been introduced, providing that all the pensions on account of death or disability from service in the Union Army, that have been or may hereafter be granted, shall begin with the death or discharge of the soldier. Struck with the justness of this measure, I immediately brought it to the attention of Department Commanders, hoping that action by the several Department Encampments might have an important bearing on its success.

Great injustice has been done to our disabled Comrades, and to the widows and orphans (who are our wards), by the great delay in granting pensions to those who are by law justly entitled to them. Applications have laid, perhaps years, before being acted upon ; and then, when reached, it has frequently happened that they have been sent back for the correction of some error or informality, and have had to go to the bottom of the list, waiting again for months or years before being reached and acted upon. The objections raised against this measure are that it grants pensions for years when they have not been asked for, and that it would necessitate the payment of millions out of the treasury. During the War of the Rebellion it was said the country could never reward its soldiers sufficiently. Now, when soldiers are no longer needed, our crippled and disabled Comrades, the widow and the orphan, are to be refused necessary relief because of the expense ; as though the services of the men who saved the Union could be requited by a few millions of dollars.

Stirring events within the last twelve months have brought the Grand Army into greater prominence than ever, proving that our Organization is as ready and willing now to take up arms in the cause of law and order as it was to crush treason and rebellion in the past. A seeming conflict between capital and labor was taken advantage of by a lawless and turbulent element, incited, by the hope of plunder, to the commission of arson and murder. Many lives were sacrificed and millions of property were destroyed. State authorities were unable to restore order, and the aid of the general Government was invoked. At the commencement of the difficulty I telegraphed to the President of the United States, "The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization composed exclusively of veteran soldiers and sailors, can, if necessary, furnish thousands of volunteers for the restoration and preservation of order." At the same time some of our Posts offered their service to the State authorities, which in a few cases were accepted. The knowledge that a strong organization of tried veteran soldiers stood ready to resume their arms to enforce obedience to the laws did much to restore order and insure quiet to the disturbed districts.

While this Organization, true to its principles, will advocate justice and equal rights, it will discountenance every attempt at anarchy or insurrection.

Our Order is now firmly established upon the best and surest foundations. It has secured the respect and good will of all. Let us continue to merit the good opinion of mankind by pursuing closely the path we have marked out, laboring earnestly for the extension and perpetuation of our Order, by keeping fresh and green the fraternal feeling that binds us together as soldiers and sailors of the Republic, by disinterested and liberal charity, and that loyalty to the Union, born of pure and lofty patriotism.

The report of the Adjutant-General showed a net gain during the year of 216 members. The larger Departments (excepting Pennsylvania) had fallen off in membership, but many of the smaller ones had gained. Pennsylvania had held her own strength, and was far ahead the most prominent Department in the Order, as was illustrated by the parade to celebrate the eleventh anniversary of that Department, when three thousand Comrades in uniform were reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Governor Hartranft, and General McClellan.

At this Encampment Chaplain-in-Chief Lovering made another of his forceful and unique addresses, suggesting a new Litany.

Address of Chaplain-in-Chief

A more cordial and vigorous support of our Grand Army journals. Not a single number of any paper published in the interests of our Fraternity can be read without a keen sense of its deserts and of the justice with which every claim is made for generous assistance.

More enthusiastic activity in recruiting our ranks. In certain sections of our country, for instance, whose fame for loyalty is more than national, among whose hosts promoted to immortality is the name of Thomas, and among whose captains immortal by brevet, whose full commission awaits their acceptance, is the illustrious name of Grant, our present membership by no means adequately represents—in numbers—the veterans of our Civil War. It seems eminently fitting that an effort should be made to recruit our ranks and awaken such an interest in the Grand Army of the Republic that it shall be a matter of serious question when any soldier claiming to have earned a good record confesses his name is not on our Roster.

All this naturally, inevitably results from the enshrined memories, soldierly worth, and active loyalty belonging to the Grand Army. Our present and our future are indissolubly united with the past. The names of those who fill our ranks to-day, however illustrious, fade before the renown of those who have been promoted. Their

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deeds are our best sources of inspiration to wakeful vigilance and untarnished honor. Their graves are the altars of our patriotism, and as we look upon them or gather about them, we may, as if we repeated a church litany, in serious and humble reverence say :

From all ingratitude to the heroic sacrifice of the past—good Lord, deliver us.

From all forgetfulness of that brave and loyal manhood by which the Union was preserved, and the Constitution of the United States vindicated—good Lord, deliver us.

From any lack of zeal, from any hesitation of purpose, from any timidity of faith in a final victory of a stalwart and valorous patriotism over the spirit of treacherous compromise and sentimental concession, which are but other names for treason, privy conspiracy, and national wrong—good Lord, deliver us.

While to such litany let there be added these questions and responses : On what rests the hope of the Republic? One country and one flag. How may that country be preserved and that flag be kept unsullied? By eternal vigilance, which is the price of liberty.

One country ! One flag ! Eternal vigilance the price of liberty ! These are the great commandments of the Grand Army of the Republic. These unite to form the supreme law of a self-sacrificing and heroic patriotism.

God of the Nation ! As in the past Thou didst grant to the Grand Army of Immortals obedience unto death, so unto us of the Grand Army of the Republic, in whatever need, in peace or war, for Thy cause, which is our country's, incline our hearts to keep this law.

The principal business of this Encampment was the adoption of the report of the Committee on Rules and Regulations and Ritual, recommending the preparation of a Ritual for the use of officers of Posts ; to permit Departments, by a two-thirds vote, to constitute Past Post Commanders as members of such Department Encampments * ; and that flags displayed or Memorial Day be at half-mast.

A resolution was adopted to appoint a committee to lay before the President of the United States a complaint relative to the refusal of the Superintendent of the United States Building in Albany, N. Y., to recognize the claims of veterans for preference in employment, and deprecating the tendency to depart from the proper observance of Memorial Day, and calling on members of the Order and all good citizens to discourage, by all the means in their power, any desecration of the day.

Commander-in-Chief John C. Robinson was reelected to that office.

* The Department of New York has never adopted the rule admitting Past Post Commanders as members of the Department Encampment.

On the evening of June 4th, Post 2, of Philadelphia, again exemplified the secret work of the Order before the members of the Encampment and visiting Comrades. The hall was filled to overflowing, and the work was illustrated in a manner to call forth the unbounded praise of all.

The same evening all Comrades present at the Encampment were entertained by the Springfield Club at their home in a style of Oriental magnificence. The house and grounds were filled with visitors to the number of a thousand at least, while five thousand or more people gathered about the enclosure. Colored lanterns and reflecting lights threw a beauty of brightness over the decorations of flags and bunting which illuminated the scene with a brilliancy rarely seen.

The streets were decorated elaborately and profusely. Emblems, flags, streamers, and banners covered the buildings, public and private, stretching from curb to roof in a wonderful display. It was the most brilliant reception the Grand Army had ever received, and foretold the prominence the Order was soon to attain.

The following day the Representatives of the Encampment were taken to the United States Armory and received with salute and military honors.

1879

The thirteenth annual session of the National Encampment met in Albany, N. Y., June 17, 1879.

Previous to the opening of the Encampment there was a large parade, comprising the National Guard of Albany, visiting bodies of militia, and Posts of the Department of New York.

This was a larger Encampment than usual, nineteen Departments being represented by 114 Department Officers and Delegates.

The address of Commander-in-Chief Robinson alluded to the continued charges of partisanship in the Grand Army, and repudiated all allegiance to any political party. His severe censure of the Copperheads of the war and the displacement of

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Union soldiers in positions of trust by those who were Confederates in service was merited and just. The charity of the Order, not confined to our northern localities, as briefly outlined in the address, illustrates the breadth of the purposes of the Organization.

From the Address of the Commander-in-Chief

As an organization we owe allegiance to no political party, and our Constitution expressly forbids the discussion of partisan questions in our meetings; yet we are bound to protect the interests of our Comrades, and I cannot avoid expressing my indignation that Union soldiers (perhaps maimed and crippled in their country's service) should be removed from positions of trust and deprived of their means of support to make room for men who fought for the dissolution of the Union. It is no violation of our organic law to call your attention to this matter, for it is one that affects every loyal soldier in the land. If this Encampment cannot repair the wrong, it can at least place on record its protest against the act.

Soldiers must stand by and support each other, or their rights will be ignored and trampled upon. We are not ready yet to admit that the cause of the Union is the lost cause. We do not admit that there is any doubt as to which was right and which was wrong in the great conflict through which we have passed. We had no doubt while the conflict lasted; we have none now. While we are confident that we were right and our opponents were wrong, we are willing to believe they were honest and sincere. We can honor and respect the brave men who manfully fought us face to face, but have only scorn and contempt for their Northern allies, who, when we needed sympathy and support, kept up the fire in the rear, criticised our operations, magnified our reverses, and had no words of encouragement or cheer for our success. Those we contended against were our own countrymen. They were as earnest and enthusiastic as ourselves, but we felt that their success would be equally ruinous to the North and South. Therefore we never acknowledged defeat, but after each reverse were ready to resume the offensive, determined then, as now, that in this country there shall be but one government and one flag. The Grand Army of the Republic, composed exclusively of men who devoted themselves to the accomplishment of this object, will insist upon a faithful observance of the terms agreed upon at the close of the war.

At our last Encampment I called your attention to the bill then pending in Congress for the payment of arrears of pensions. It has since become a law, and although the disbursements under it are likely to be much greater than was anticipated, but few persons deny the justice of the measure, and it is gratifying to know that it will afford the needed relief to many disabled Comrades and to thousands of widows and orphans.

During the prevalence last summer of the terrible epidemic with which our brethren at the South were afflicted, I received an appeal for aid from our Comrades

in Louisiana. I immediately issued a circular calling for contributions to meet the emergency. The response was prompt and generous. Mower Post, No. 1, Department of Louisiana, acknowledged the receipt of \$4,423.85. They expended \$4,289.05, leaving a balance of \$134.80. The Committee state that they did not confine themselves to relieving members of the Grand Army and their families, but regarding the money as a soldiers' fund, contributed by soldiers, they furnished aid to all ex-soldiers and sailors of the Union whom they found in need. Their report embraces 878 families relieved, 19 ex-soldiers and 2 ex-sailors of the Union Army and Navy, together with 28 children buried.

The report of Adjutant-General James L. Farley showed a net gain in membership during the past year of 4,048, more than half of which (2,732) had been made in Pennsylvania.

The reported net assets by Quartermaster-General William Ward was \$5,872.95.

The Chaplain-in-Chief, Joseph F. Lovering, made another of his unique reports, calling it a sermon, having, as he said, previously given the Creed and Litany :

Under instructions from the Chairman of the Committee on Manual for Officers, I have drafted a service for Memorial Day, which is herewith submitted. I have also drafted and herewith submit an outline draft for service at the dedication of memorial shafts, statues, etc. I have also drafted and herewith submit blanks for future reports to this office should they be accepted and approved.

So far as I can ascertain, the zeal of our Comrades for the Grand Army of the Republic knows no diminution, and, if possible, burns with more steadfast and glowing flame. Their appreciation of the value and importance of the work of the Grand Army is heartier than ever. Why should it not be? Such work concerns the sacred memory of our dead, that the precious inheritance of valor, sacrifice, good faith, and loyalty they left may be guarded by us and enshrined in the life of our country. Such work concerns ourselves in justification of that personal self-respect that belongs to us as Union soldiers, who should be joint recipients with our dead of the Nation's gratitude and honors. Such work concerns our children, that they may learn that great lesson of patriotism, that the security of the State must depend upon the fidelity of the citizen. Such work concerns our country, that treason, with its baneful smile and deceitful tongue, may not steal, by political audacity, what it could not conquer by the mailed arm of rebellion; that the Nation may not suffer the shame of surrendering in peace what it paid blood and treasure for in war; that the craft and intrigue of the caucus, or the plausible sophistries of the hustings or of Congress, may not give rule to those who could not gain authority by bayonet and sword; that no such humiliating spectacle may be endured as that of a maimed and patriot soldier driven out of the camp he has guarded, without even the formality of a drumhead court-martial, and his place filled by one who wears a

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livery of gray under the domino and cloak, or waterproof and shawl, of a defeated yet defiant and recon-*tinued* rebel.

In my previous reports, that our zeal might be increased and our fidelity enlarged, I have given "our Creed" and "our Litany"; to-day I purpose to preach "our sermon" and read "our hymn."

This is the sermon :

You can find the words of my text in the Twentieth Psalm, fifth verse : " In the name of our God we will set up our banners."

Such a text may fitly suggest this subject : " Our Flag."

1. Our flag was woven on the loom of the Revolution by the indomitable valor, the unwavering determination, and invincible faith of hearts that knew no fear and would endure no wrong.

2. Our flag was consecrated to liberty and equal rights, to the security of the citizen and the sovereignty of the people.

3. Under its sheltering folds and in defence of the principles for which it stands, our heroic and immortal dead rallied and fought and fell and were promoted.

4. For its honor and supremacy we have toiled and suffered and prayed.

5. Beneath its radiant folds no miscreant fraud, no treachery with assassin heart, no sullen and vindictive treason ought to live.

6. Its shelter should protect only industry, good faith, self-sacrificing patriotism, that an honorable past may not fail of its just deserts ; that the present may be strengthened in devotion to acknowledged duty ; that the future may realize what a loyal faith may encourage us to expect.

In conclusion, all hail our flag ! See how its stars glow with celestial light ! See how its crimson throbs as if it still felt the pulse of the brave hearts that have defended it ! See how its white symbolizes an unstained loyalty ! See how its blue still mirrors the heavens, in whose purity its stars first learned how to shine !

See how the eagle on its staff, with half-spread pinions and vigilant eyes, watches against any rattlesnake that may lurk in the grass, or any buzzard that may anywhere have fattened on carrion.

Finally, let us, so far as our flag is concerned, adopt the language of our text and say : " In the name of our God we will set up our banners." Let our flag be dear to us. Let it be set high above us. Let nothing be dearer, let nothing be higher, save only the austere and gracious symbol of our faith—the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord ! Amen.

Rules, Regulations, and Ritual

The Committee reported upon the several propositions submitted, the most important being an amendment to Article XIV., Chapter I., *ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP*, adding the words in italics :

Soldiers and sailors of the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, and of such State regiments as were called into active service and subject to the orders of United States General Officers, who served between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865, in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, and those having been honorably discharged therefrom after such service, shall be eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic.

No person shall be eligible to membership who has at any time borne arms against the United States.

The limit as to time was intended to cover a decision following the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States as to the date when the Rebellion ended, and under which decision those who enlisted after Lee's surrender were eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Another important feature of this Encampment was the adoption of a form of service for Memorial Day, which had been prepared by the Chaplain-in-Chief.

For the Observance of Memorial Day

Thy dead men shall live.—*Isa.* xxvi. 19.

It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country.—*Horace.*

Services for Memorial Day

[The Post will assemble at the order of the Post Commander, in the Post hall (or elsewhere), all Comrades in uniform. The officers (if in the Post hall) will take their usual stations.]

COMMANDER.—Sergeant-Major (*he rises and salutes, the Commander returning salute*), you will prepare for parade. (*The Sergeant-Major will then form the Post in line, two ranks.*)

SERGEANT-MAJOR.—Commander, the Post is formed.

COMMANDER.—Officer of the Day, you will ascertain if all in the ranks are Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

OFFICER OF THE DAY.—All in the ranks are Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

COMMANDER.—Adjutant, you will present the officers. (*The Adjutant will command, "Officers to the front and centre." Will place himself three paces in front and opposite centre of the line. The remaining officers will form on the right and left of the Adjutant, facing the Post Commander, as follows: Senior Vice-Commander, Surgeon, Chaplain, Adjutant, Officer of the Day, Quartermaster, Officer of the Guard, Junior Vice-Commander.*)

ADJUTANT.—Officers, Present arms!

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COMMANDER (*unless he has special orders for officers will say*) : Officers, to your stations. (*Officers will take their places in line, Chaplain one pace to left and front of Commander, Adjutant one pace to right and rear.*)

COMMANDER.—The Chaplain will invoke the divine blessing. Parade, rest!

CHAPLAIN.—Almighty Father! humbly we bow before Thee, our Creator, Preserver, Guide, and Protector. We thank Thee for our lives; for the mercy which has kept us until this hour; for Thy guidance on land and sea by day and by night; for Thy constant care in the hour of danger; and for the preservation of our national integrity and unity. Be graciously near to our Comrades who suffer from disease or wounds, and to the widows and orphans of those who fell in our holy cause; in all distress comfort them, and give us willing hearts and ready hands to supply their needs. Grant that the memory of our noble dead, who freely gave their lives for the land they loved, may dwell ever in our hearts. Bless our country; bless our Order; make it an instrument of great good; keep our names on the roll of Thy servants, and at last receive us into that Grand Army above, where Thou, O God, art the Supreme Commander.

COMRADES.—Amen.

COMMANDER.—Attention! Adjutant, you will read the orders for the day.

[The Adjutant will then read the order of the Post Commander, and the National and Department orders for Memorial Day (unless these are to be read in the general services in the cemetery); also, order of exercises, details for decoration of graves, etc.]

COMMANDER.—Comrades, the duty of to-day is of impressive significance. We meet to honor our dead, and to deepen our reverence for their worth; to strengthen among ourselves the bond of fraternity by recalling the memory of experiences common to us all; to encourage a more generous charity for our Comrades who are sick or in distress, and for the destitute wards of the Grand Army; to renew our pledge of loyalty to our country and our flag, and to emphasize in the minds and hearts of all who may unite with us the privilege and duty of patriotism.

It is expected that throughout our services each one will manifest the most courteous and reverent decorum. Let our soldierly deportment be such that we may worthily honor the graves we decorate, the memories we cherish, the flag we salute, and the Grand Army to which we belong.

[Should it have been necessary for Comrades who had been detailed at a regular Post meeting for any special service to perform such duty previous to this parade, the Commander will call for their report.

Should it be necessary for such details to attend to the duty assigned them after parade, the Commander will announce the time and place of reassembling, and then order, "Parade, dismissed!"

If the Post is to decorate the graves in a body, the Commander, after the above address, will order the Post to move in column by fours to the place where such decoration is to take place. The music on parade, to and from the graves, shall be that of *fife* and *drum*. If a band is desired, it shall be used only on street parade

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after decoration, on the way to the hall or grove where the memorial address is to be made, at that place, and on the return to the Post hall or place of assembly.

When the Post in a body decorates graves, or when, after the decoration of graves by detachments, the Post assembles for service in the cemetery, or when a cenotaph is decorated to the unknown (or unreturned) on same parade ground, a firing party with three rounds of blank cartridge shall be detailed to do escort duty, who shall march with arms reversed, unloaded; and at the cemetery or cenotaph, or at some other convenient place, after the decoration of graves and cenotaph has been completed, the Commander shall order the officer in charge of the firing party, "Salute the dead!" And that officer shall order, "Recover, arms!" "Order, arms!" etc., to "Fire!"

The Commander shall then dismiss the parade, or take up the line of march to Post hall, and then dismiss to such time as further exercises shall be had, unless such exercises proceed immediately.]

[These exercises are supposed to be now public in their character.]

Special Service at Cemetery

[Should there be this special service, the address of the Commander, beginning, "Comrades, the duty of to-day is of impressive significance," will not be given until the Post, band or choir, and attendant friends have taken their positions around some monument or grave. Then this service shall be used:]

COMMANDER.—Comrades, the duty of to-day, etc.

MUSIC.—By band or choir.

CHAPLAIN.—*Let us pray.* Almighty God! in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought life and immortality to light, we bow before Thee on this Memorial Day. We thank Thee that out from the carnage of war we have come to these days of peace. We thank Thee that the valor and devotion, and sacrifice unto death of those whose memories we revere, vindicate our expectations that no threat against our country's honor shall ever be accomplished; but as in the past Thou didst give to our dead the spirit of fidelity and of heroism, so Thou wilt give to those steadfast in the cause of human rights and liberty, of law and order, of social justice and national rectitude, Thy wisdom to direct, Thy might to strengthen, Thy love to bless.

O God! teach us to honor our dead by serving the country for which they died. O God! teach us to be grateful to our dead for what they wrought for us by our ready helpfulness of those, the widow and orphan, whose right it is to mourn. O God! teach us to decorate the graves of our dead, not only with a tribute beautiful and fragrant, that must fade, but with that fraternity whose love shall endure, with that charity that is fruitful of good works, with that loyalty which, while true to our country's flag, is supremely devoted to the cross, the symbol of our faith.

We thank Thee for peace: that the anger of cannon no longer burdens the air, that the gleam of the sabre and bayonet no longer blinds the eyes, that the

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passion of war is stilled, and that mercy ministers to those who have submitted to the authority of the Nation. May we give them a soldier's pardon, not forgetting the wrong that was done in the charity we accord.

Continue, we pray Thee, the memory of the dead ; strengthen, we pray Thee, the hearts of the living ; bless, we pray Thee, our whole people, that it may be a nation whose God is the Lord ; deepen and ennoble that faith that shall make the Grand Army of the Republic the color-guard of the Nation's patriotism ; and let our country, now and forever, be the "land of the free and the home of the brave." And to the end that all for which we pray may be wrought out in us effectually, grant, O God ! that by Thy grace we may be enlisted in Thy great army of the redeemed, under Jesus Christ, the Captain of our Salvation. Amen !

COMMANDER.—To-day is the festival of our dead. We unite to honor the memory of our brave and our beloved, to enrich and ennoble our lives by recalling a public heroism and a private worth that are immortal, to encourage by our solemn service a more zealous and stalwart patriotism. Festival of the dead ! Yes, though many eyes are clouded with tears, though many hearts are heavy with regret, though many lives are still desolate because of the father or brother, the husband or lover, who did not come back ; though every grave, which a tender reverence or love adorns with flowers, is the shrine of a sorrow whose influence is still potent, though its first keen poignancy has been dulled—despite of all, to-day is a festival, a festival of our dead ; no less a festival because it is full of solemnity.

And now, as in this silent camping-ground of our dead, with soldierly tenderness and love, we garland these passionless mounds, let us recall those who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes. Let us recall their toils, their sufferings, their heroism, their supreme fidelity in camp, in prison-pen, on the battle-field and in hospital, that the flag under which they fought and from the shadows of whose folds they were promoted may never be dishonored ; that the country for whose union and supremacy they surrendered life may have the fervent and enthusiastic devotion of every citizen ; that, as we stand by every grave as before an altar, we may pledge our manhood that, so help us God, the memory of our dead shall encourage and strengthen in us all a more loyal patriotism.

OFFICER OF THE DAY (*or Comrade to whom the duty has been assigned*).—In your name, my Comrade, I scatter [or deposit] these memorial flowers upon this grave [or monument], which represents the graves of all who died in the sacred cause of our country. Our floral tribute shall wither. Let the tender, fraternal love for which it stands endure until the touch of death shall chill the warm pulse-beat of our hearts.

CHAPLAIN (*or Comrade to whom the duty has been assigned*).—Comrades, by this service, without distinction of race or creed, we renew our pledge to exercise a spirit of fraternity among ourselves, of charity to the destitute wards of the Grand Army, and of loyalty to the authority and union of the United States of

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America, and to our glorious flag, under whose folds every Union soldier's or sailor's grave is the altar of patriotism.

COMRADES.—Amen.

COMMANDER (*to the officer in charge of the firing party*).—Salute the dead!

OFFICER.—Recover, arms! Order, arms, etc. Fire!

HYMN.—“My Country, 'tis of thee.”

BENEDICTION.

Public Exercises

[This service is meant especially for public halls, although the special service at cemetery could be used, excepting what is said by the Officer of the Day and Chaplain in the act of decoration. The Scripture reading in this service could be introduced into the special service at cemetery if no further public exercises are to be had.

The audience is supposed to be seated. The Post enters in uniform, and, covered, file into the space before the seats they are to occupy. The Commander, standing just before the Post, or upon the platform where invited guests, orators, and Chaplain are seated, says:]

COMMANDER.—Attention! ——— Post, ———, Department ———, Grand Army of the Republic. The Adjutant will read memorial orders from Headquarters. (*Adjutant then reads such parts of orders from Department Headquarters and National Headquarters as may have been previously designated by the Commander.*)

COMMANDER.—Obedience is a soldier's duty. It is not, however, merely in obedience to the order (or orders) read that we assemble here. The most generous instincts of our hearts prompts us to do what the orders from Headquarters command. This day commemorates a valor on sea and on land that is illustrious. This day is eloquent with a patriotism which did not speak only from the lips. This day is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who, out of prison-pens and hospitals, from camps and battle-fields, have joined the innumerable company of those who muster to-day upon the parade-ground of heaven. Comrades, salute the dead!

[At this command, every Comrade and the Commander will place his left hand upon his heart and raise his hat with his right hand. Standing so for a moment in silence, the Commander, letting his left hand drop to his side, and replacing his hat on his head, will say:]

COMMANDER.—Attention! (*A brief pause.*) Uncover. (*A brief pause. One rap.*)

COMMANDER (*removing his hat after the Post is seated, will say*):

Friends: As Commander of this Post, I welcome you, in the name of my Comrades, to this public service. To us, this is the Memorial Day of stalwart bravery, of patriotic heroism, of national faith. It is the freedom day of a race emancipated from bondage, and of a nation redeemed from iniquity. It is dear to every soldier. It deepens in our hearts a memory of our brave and our beloved—the Grand Army of Immortals; and that memory makes precious to us the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic, which we wear upon our breasts.

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May we join so reverently in these exercises, that what we call Memorial Day may be to our dead their day of coronation.

MUSIC.—By band or choir [such as “Keller’s American Hymn”].

COMMANDER.—The significance of this day is not without the indorsements of Holy Scripture. Hear what may well apply to our

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, AND THE FLAG.

The Lord gave the word : great was the company of those that published it.—Ps. lxxviii. 11.

Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard.—Jer. l. 2. In the name of our God we will set up our banners.—Ps. xx. 5.

I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.—Jer. iv. 19.

COMMANDER.—Senior Vice-Commander, what words of Holy Scripture may refer to the

NAVY?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER.—They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters ; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad, because they be quiet : so He bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men !—Ps. cvii. 23-25, 28-32.

COMMANDER.—Junior Vice-Commander, what Scripture may apply to the

ARMY?

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER.—To your tents, O Israel ! So all Israel went to their tents.—2 Chron. x. 16. The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.—Num. i. 52. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.—Ps. lx. 4. The Lord shall utter His voice before His army ; for His camp is very great : for He is strong that executeth his word : for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible ; and who can abide it?—Joel, ii. 11. Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies : let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them ; for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.—Deut. xx. 3, 4. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses : but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.—Ps. xx. 7.

COMMANDER.—Officer of the Day, if the work of the Navy and Army is well done, what proclamation from Holy Writ can you make ?

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OFFICER OF THE DAY.—A proclamation of

PEACE

Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hath wrought all our works in us.—Isa. xxvi. 12

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.—Isa. lii. 7, 10.

COMMANDER.—Even with such a peace, something remains for us to consider. Chaplain, tell us of

THE NATION AND ITS DEAD

CHAPLAIN.—Thou hast increased the nation, O Lord, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hast removed it far unto all the ends of the earth. Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.—Isa. xxvi. 15, 19.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.—Isa. xxv. 8.

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city, salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.—Isa. xxvi. 1.

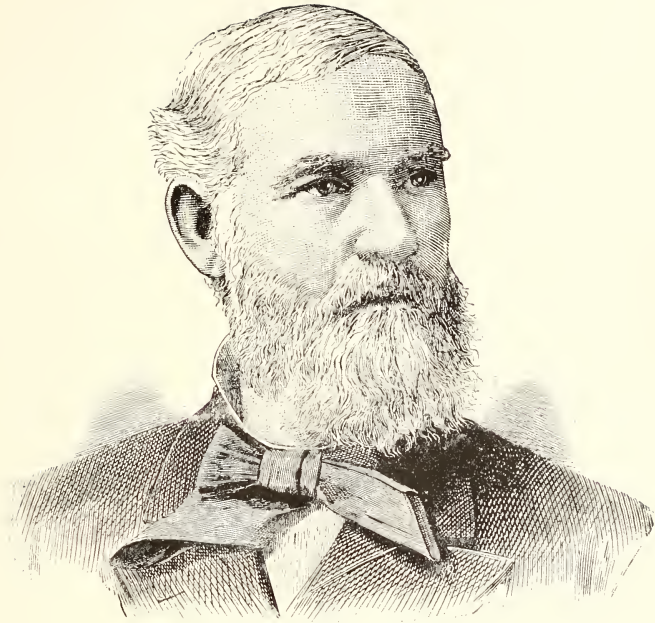
COMMANDER.—And, as an end to all, what is to be our

VICTORY?

CHAPLAIN.—This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.—1 John v. 4. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Eph. vi. 10-18.

War a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience.—1 Tim. i. 18, 19.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.—2 Tim. i. 10. Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.—2 Tim. ii. 3.



Wm. Eamshon

EIGHTH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—DIED JULY 17, 1885

Department of New York, G. A. R.

For this mortal must put on immortality. So when this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. xv. 53-58.

COMMANDER.—Attention! ——— Post, ———. After such words from Holy Scripture, it is fitting now that we invoke the Divine blessing. PARADE. *Rest!*

CHAPLAIN.—Almighty God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought life and immortality to light, etc.

COMRADES.—Amen.

COMMANDER.—Attention! (*One rap.*)

MUSIC.—By band or choir.

ADDRESS.—By ———.

MUSIC.—By band or choir, closing with the national ode, “America.”

COMMANDER.—Chaplain, pronounce the Benediction.

CHAPLAIN.—The grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

COMRADES.—Amen.

[The Post may now be dismissed. It is better, however, after requesting the audience to remain seated, for the Post to take up line of march to Post hall, or some other convenient place, and then be dismissed.]

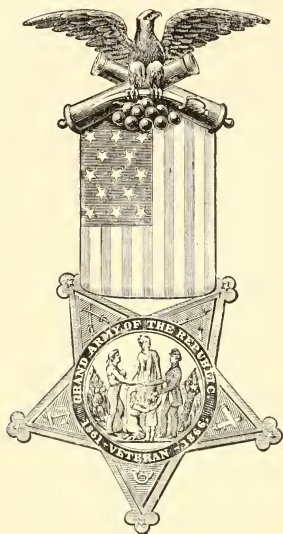
One of the results of an election for officers for the ensuing year, which took place at this Encampment, was the choice of Rev. William Earnshaw, of Ohio, for Commander-in-Chief. Among the many hospitalities extended at the time of this Encampment, the most noted was a grand banquet to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Society of the Army of the Potomac, on the evening of the 17th of June, at which General James Husted made the remarkable tribute to the State National Guard:

From her ranks were officered, by hundreds, the companies, the regiments, the brigades, divisions of the armies of the Union. Singly and by platoons her files went forth to do battle for the right, and “so long as memory holds her place in this distracted globe,” so long will be held ever green the memories of Vosburgh, of Corcoran, and of Pratt. Thousands more there were who with them are seated around the Great White Throne; thousands more there are, who are of us and with us on earth, of equal honor and equal fame. Such was the record of the National Guard during the trying days. Where stands she now? At this moment, with rare exceptions, her officers are they who won their spurs side by side with you. The file, too, as well as the rank, numbers a large percentage of the veterans of the war.

They are members of your great Organization. They are with you and of you here to-night. What can I say more than to add—they are yourselves?

During the present year the badge of the Order was again changed in the form of the Eagle and shape of the Star, bringing the two metal pieces into a more symmetrical harmony.

As this is the most memorable year in the history of the Department of New York, the event which made it so demands an extended notice, though it retards the approach to the birthday of Lafayette Post.



The New York State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home

The Home is located at Bath, Steuben County, where the cornerstone was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, June 13, 1877.

List of Articles Deposited in the Box Placed under the Corner-stone.

A copy of the Holy Scriptures, presented by the Steuben County Bible Society.
Brief history of the Soldiers' Home.

Set of United States coin of 1876—dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, twenty-cent piece, dime, five, three, and one cent pieces.

Medals—Washington Centennial, 1776-1876 ; Franklin and Washington, Jefferson and Adams, McClellan, Lincoln, Grant, Greeley, Hayes and Wheeler, Tilden and Hendricks, eight pieces of Continental currency ; all donated by Thomas Warner of Cohocton.

United States paper money—Dollar greenback, one half dollar, one quarter dollar, and ten cents fractional currency.

Concurrent Resolutions in Relation to a Soldiers' Home for the State of New York, adopted by the Legislature, May 8th.

The Act of Incorporation.



BARRACKS A, B, AND C

Department of New York, G. A. R.

Names of Board of Trustees for 1876 and 1877, together with Standing Committees.

By-laws as prepared by the Board of Trustees.

Proceedings of the National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, since the foundation of the Order in 1866 to 1876, inclusive, with opinions of Judge Advocate General, and Rules of Order.

Proceedings of the Semi-annual and Annual Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York, for 1875-1877.

General Orders and Circulars issued from National Headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic, and from Headquarters, Department of New York, from 1876 to date.

Officers of the State of New York, 1877.

Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Officers of Steuben County, 1877.

Officers in the village of Bath, 1877.

Churches in the village of Bath, 1877, together with names of officiating pastors.

Officers of the Davenport Institute for Female Orphan Children, 1877.

Officers of the Haverling Union School, 1877.

Copies of the following daily and weekly papers : New York "Tribune," "Herald," "Times," "Sun," "World," "Post," "Staats-Zeitung," and "Graphic"; Brooklyn daily and Sunday "Eagle," "Union," and "Argus"; Brooklyn (E. D.) "Times" and "Review"; Bath "Advocate," "Courier," and "Echo"; Elmira "Advertiser," "Gazette," and "Husbandman"; Rochester "Democrat," "Union," and "Express"; Buffalo "Courier," "Advertiser," and "Express."

Pamphlet, prepared by General Daniel E. Sickles, on the "New York Soldiers' Home," setting forth its necessity, its proposed inmates, and the progress of the work.

Subscription Book as used by the New York Finance Committee in aid of Soldiers' Home.

Programme of Exercises at the Ceremonies of Laying Corner-stone.

Photograph of the Home.

List of contributions by Seward Post, No. 37, of Auburn.

Copy of circular sent to churches for collections, May 27th.

Grand Army Gazette.

Red and white silk badges, worn by Delegates to the semi-annual Encampment at Bath.

Grand Army Badge, No. 1534.

Silk flag from Thatford Post, No. 3, Brooklyn.

The Home was formally dedicated January 23, 1879.

What seemed at that time a wonderful accomplishment has grown until at the present time it seems as though nothing more could be done to complete or perfect it. There are three-story

brick barracks sufficiently large to accommodate 1,200 inmates, and a hospital with capacity for 200 patients and attendants. There is a headquarters building, a chapel, an amusement hall, a greenhouse, boiler and engine house, bakery, laundry, and bath-house, and several workshops and storehouses; also a store, fountain, band-stand, reading-room, and library of 8,000 volumes. The buildings are heated by steam and lighted by electricity from its own plant, furnishing 900 incandescent lights of sixteen candle-power for the interior, and twelve arc lights of 2,000 candle-power each for exterior purposes. On Christmas Day before the dedication twenty-five veterans were admitted, since which time there have been 6,000 admissions and more than 1,000 deaths. The inmates present number over 1,000, at an average age of sixty-five years. Of the 6,000 who have entered, 128 are veterans of the Regular Army; 5,522 Volunteers, and 350 Navy. Foreign born, 3,200; native born, 2,800. Married, 1,752; single, 4,248. Those who could not read and write number 1,977.

The pensions of the veterans are received by the cashier of the Home, and credited to each pensioner; of this \$1.50 can be drawn weekly for spending money. This plan forces the men to save, so they can lay up a supply to be sent to their families, or used for expenses when they take their usual ninety days' furlough. The profits of the "canteen" go into the Grand Army fund, which has reached the sum of several thousand dollars. It was considered wise to permit the canteen, yet a Keeley League has been formed which has a membership of 177, with only seven backsliders. The place is quite a village of itself, with its tailor, paint, shoe, barber, machine, tin, blacksmith, and carpenter shops, and stores of sundry kinds, all operated by the veterans themselves.

Services are held in the Chapel every Sunday, and when an inmate dies. Of these 877 sleep in the Home cemetery, and 233 were taken away by friends.

A volume could be written about the Home, yet its history would be incomplete. The addresses at the dedication, by the retiring Department Commander, W. F. Rogers, and Mr. Setchworth, President of the State Board of Charities, will not



HEADQUARTERS

Department of New York, G. A. R.

be found tiresome by the Comrades of the Order who appreciate its charitable and philanthropic work.

General W. F. Rogers said :

I offer no apology for occupying the position in which you find me to-day, nor express any regret that the task imposed upon me was not entrusted to abler hands.

I find myself simply the creature of circumstances. One year ago I was honored by my Comrades by being chosen the Commander of the Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic; and holding this position at the time when these buildings were completed and ready for occupation, those having charge of the work, together with a Committee of Comrades associated with them to make arrangements for their dedication to the purposes for which they were erected, detailed me for this duty simply because it was my fortune to be at the head of the Department. As obedience is the duty of the soldier, although I felt that they might have done much better for you, as well as myself, I assumed the task imposed upon me.

We have assembled here to-day to dedicate to valor and patriotism an institution partially erected by private benevolence, but now endowed by this State, to be a Home for the support of the helpless and indigent Comrades who participated in the struggle for national existence, and aided in again making the flag we followed the symbol of a reunited country, but who are debarred the benefits of the Homes under the patronage of the National Government.

It was meet that this Home should have opened its doors at this season of the year, when the human heart is open, more than at any other time, to charitable deeds. The last anniversary of the advent of the Saviour of Mankind found thirty-one inmates in this Home, who ate their Christmas dinner within these walls [*ap-
plause*]; and each returning anniversary of an event which is celebrated throughout Christendom—the birth of the meek and lowly Son of God, who took upon Him man's nature and man's sufferings, and became a "man of sorrow and acquainted with grief," that the erring children of the race might through Him enter a more perfect Home beyond the realms of this world—they will continue to remind those who are gathered here, remnants of the host who went forth to battle for the right, that the lessons taught by Him who spake as never man spake, brought down to us through the centuries, are spreading their benign influences in the hearts of men and moving them to noble deeds of charity, to commiserate the misfortune of those who, by the mysterious decrees of Providence, are bereft of the glad gifts which enable us to see and hear and speak, as well as the subjects of that worst of all human afflictions, a mind diseased.

The distinguished citizen who is to follow me, and who has made these subjects his special study—devoting to them a large-hearted benevolence which will entitle his name, in after years, to rank among the benefactors of his kind—will tell you what New York has done and is doing for this class of unfortunate humanity. And he comes here to-day to participate with us in celebrating the establishment of a kindred project, the outgrowth of a sentiment as pure as any which adorns human nature—the sentiment which recognizes the trials, dangers, and sufferings of those

who left behind them their dearest ties to breast the storm of war and form a wall of fire between your homes and an earnest, determined foe, whose rebellious arms were raised to destroy the inheritance bequeathed to us by the fathers of the Republic. Happily for us the resources and patriotism of the North were equal to the task of reestablishing the national authority. The Union was saved, but at what fearful cost! Happily for us, also, when the immense host which had responded to the call of their country, and accomplished its work, and returned to quietly melt away, and again assume the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, there was a demand for the services of all in the peaceful avocations of life, and years of prosperity have helped to heal the wounds of war. Then followed a time of general depression; and as the years passed it seemed that many who followed the flag became the peculiar victims of this changed condition of things. The homage to the returning heroes at the close of the war was forgotten. The platforms of political conventions, which, during the strife, abounded with promises that those who fought for the country should, other things being equal, be entitled to places within the gift of the State or people, no longer alluded to the services of the great volunteer army. Loyalty to party is recognized as paramount to loyalty to country, and the humble petition of the poor soldier for the privilege of earning his bread by the labor of his hands is too often ignored. But those who shared with him the baptism of fire are always ready to sympathize with and aid him.

Few outside of the Grand Army of the Republic are aware of the benefit which the soldier and his family have received from the funds contributed by its members. It has been charged that our Organization is a political one; that we are banded together for the purpose of controlling political action; and this charge has tended to prejudice the minds even of soldiers against us, who have consequently kept aloof from our councils. The occasion which has called us together to-day should be sufficient refutation of this charge; but, in order to further satisfy the uninitiated, I will quote its objects:

First. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.

Second. To assist such former Comrades-in-arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.

Third. To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws; to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

This is our platform, and to these principles are we solemnly bound. It is an association which has enabled us to know the wants of our Comrades; and the needy one knows that where there is a Post of the Grand Army he will be sure of a fraternal welcome and such assistance as their ability will permit. It is an association which brought to our knowledge the unpleasant fact that worthy Comrades,

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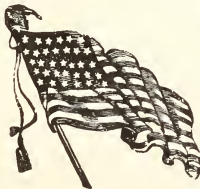
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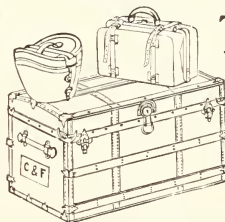
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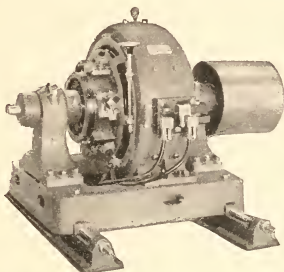
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